TUESDAY
March 14, 2023
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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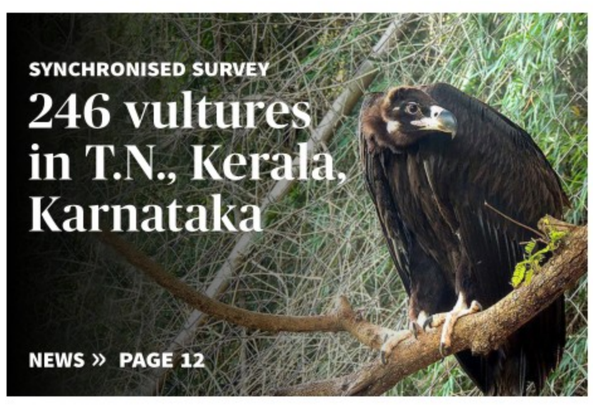
MEDICAL EMERGENCY
IndiGo's Delhi-Doha flight diverted to Pak.
NEWS » PAGE 12



SYNCHRONISED SURVEY
246 vultures in T.N., Kerala, Karnataka
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EXIT OF A PACIFIST
Nobel Prize winner Kenzaburo Oe dies
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NEW PLAYERS
A reality check for foreign universities
Fees, placement key to their success in India
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INDIA ENTERS WTC FINAL
Rohit's men qualify as Lanka loses to NZ
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CJI refers petitions on same-sex marriage to Constitution Bench

Court lists case for final arguments on April 18; hearing will be livestreamed in public interest; Adopted child of a lesbian or gay couple does not necessarily have to be lesbian or gay, says Chief Justice in response to concerns raised by the govt.

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Growing up with lesbian or gay parents will not necessarily make a child lesbian or gay, the Supreme Court observed on Monday, as it confronted the government's concern about the "psychological" impact same-sex marriages may have on children.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud referred petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriages to a Constitution Bench, but took the time on Monday to soothe the government's anxiety about how such a move would affect Indian "social ethos".

"Parliament will have to examine... Parliament will have to see what would be the psychology of a child who has seen either two men or only two women as parents... What would be the psychology of a child who was not reared by a father and a mother... Parliament will have to debate whether we would like this institution to be recognised in view of our social ethos..." Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Union, objected to the court's intervention.

> Parliament will have to see what would be the psychology of a child who has seen either two men or only two women as parents
> **TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Solicitor-General

"But, Mr. Solicitor, the adopted child of a lesbian couple or a gay couple does not necessarily have to be lesbian or gay..." CJI Chandrachud said.

At one point, Mr. Mehta said, "Your Lordships are shouldering a very heavy burden of how society will develop henceforth."

The Bench listed the case for final arguments on April 18 and said the hearing would be livestreamed in public interest.

The Centre denied any stigma attached to same-sex relationships. "The question here is whether this relationship, as part of right to dignity, can be given recognition by the state," Mr. Mehta said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Naatu Naatu, The Elephant Whisperers bring home 2 Oscars

Rich haul: *Naatu Naatu* composer M.M. Keeravaani and lyricist Chandrabose in Los Angeles. At right are *The Elephant Whisperers* director Kartiki Gonsalves & producer Guneet Monga. PTI & REUTERS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Naatu Naatu, the irrepressible, fun number from the film *RRR*, and the documentary short *The Elephant Whisperers* made Oscar history for India on Monday with one Academy Award each, the two wins showcasing cinema beyond Bollywood and the growing might of the Indian non-feature segment.

This is the first time two India-made productions have bagged the cinema world's biggest prize.

Dancers took over the stage at Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre, recreating the hugely popular hook steps from the Telugu track, and actor Deepika Padukone introduced the song to loud cheers.

Naatu Naatu composed by M.M. Keeravaani and penned by Chandrabose in S.S. Rajamouli's blockbuster, is the fourth non-English song to win an Oscar in the category and the first song in a foreign language since *Jai Ho* in 2009 to bag the prize.

The Elephant Whisperers, by Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga, which explores the bond between humans and an abandoned elephant calf in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, is India's first win in the Documentary Short category.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
READ MORE ON » PAGES 7, 8 & 13

NEARBY

Poor occupancy puts the brakes on Golden Chariot

BENGALURU
Post its relaunch in November 2022, the luxury train Golden Chariot has taken only one trip. Passengers have reported that bookings are being cancelled by the IRCTC citing less takers as the reason. » PAGE 5

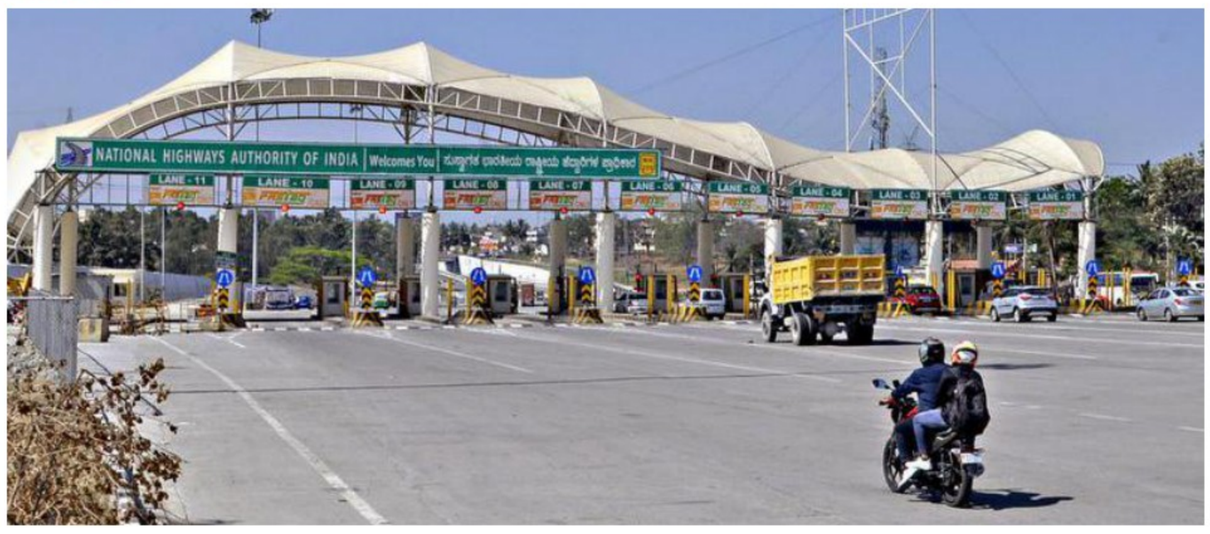
Govt. to purchase raw silk to arrest fall in price

BENGALURU
In the light of a steep fall in the price of raw silk over the last fortnight, the State government has decided to purchase raw silk through KSMB from Tuesday. » PAGE 6

Ramesh Jarkiholi accuses DKS of blackmail

BENGALURU
BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi has accused KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar of using CDs to blackmail some BJP Ministers in Karnataka in a bid to force them to join the Congress before the Assembly elections. » PAGE 6

All set



The toll plaza on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, from the Bengaluru side. The toll collection will begin from Tuesday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.
(ANOTHER PHOTO AND REPORT ON PAGE 3)

Retail inflation stays above 6%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation remained above the Reserve Bank of India's 6% tolerance threshold for the second straight month in February at 6.44%, virtually unchanged from 6.52% in January.

Economists expect the central bank to raise interest rates again in its April monetary policy review.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 14

Police plan on better traffic management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over the next three years, traffic signal timings will adapt based on actual traffic demand. This will help manage traffic in a scientific manner, according to M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic). He said technology would enable the traffic police to focus more on regulation and traffic management, rather than enforcement.

DETAILS » PAGE 3

SEBI probing 'market allegations' on Adani Group, Finance Ministry tells Lok Sabha

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Stock market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is probing "market allegations" against the Adani Group of companies, while the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has completed investigation in a power equipment imports case involving the group even as another case involving imports of Indonesian coal is held up due to litigation.

On March 2, the top court directed SEBI to conclude its probe within two months.

The Finance Ministry shared this information in the Lok Sabha on Monday through responses to seven questions posed by parliamentarians on the Adani Group.

"As per its mandate, [SEBI] conducts investigations into any alleged violations of its regulations by any market entity. It is, accordingly, undertaking investigation into the market allegations against the Adani Group of companies," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said.

'No impact'

"The nine listed companies forming part of Adani Group witnessed a decline of around 60% of market capitalisation from January 24, 2023, till March 01, 2023, subsequent to the report published by Hindenburg Research [that accused the group of stock manipulation and accounting fraud]. These companies are not part of Sensex and have a combined weight of below 1% in Nifty," Mr. Chaudhary said. The volatility in these stocks have not had "any significant impact at the systemic level", he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

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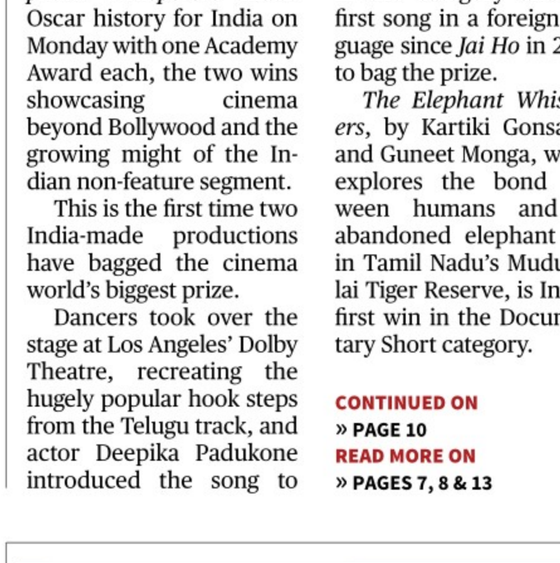

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Indian Green Building Council FOUNDING MEMBER

MEA is planning to train our officials, claim Taliban

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Reports of an alleged decision by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to hold courses for Afghans, including Taliban officials, have set off strong reactions from Afghan students who have been denied visas by New Delhi for nearly two years. They termed the decision "contrary to India's policy" and "disappointing".

While the Taliban is not recognised by any country, India is amongst about 15 countries that run missions in Kabul, which it reopened in June 2022 as a "technical mission".

According to an internal memo (in Dari language) circulated within the offices of the Taliban's Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan and available online, the Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) had received intimation of the course from the Indian technical mission in Kabul.

"The Embassy of India in Kabul, via note verbale No. Kabul/nv/2023/05 dated 23/01/2023 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has announced the organisation of a short-term online training programme for the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," a translated version of the memo said, adding that the special course, titled 'Immersing with India thoughts' would be held from Tuesday (March 14 to 17).

A file photo of Afghan students protesting in Bengaluru against the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. PTI

The MEA refused to comment on the memo, given India's consistent position that it doesn't recognise the Taliban regime that took power by force in Kabul in August 2021, and does not recognise their documents as official.

However, sources said the course described is run by the Indian Institute of Management in Kozhikode, sponsored by the MEA's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, and is open to students "across the world, including in Afghanistan". The sources did not rule out that some of those applying for the course would belong to the Taliban regime's staff.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

31.33 In ₹ lakh crore, the currency in circulation in March 2022 compared to the ₹13 lakh crore in 2014, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha. Although the cash in circulation had dipped after demonetisation to ₹13.35 lakh crore as of March 2017, it has been rising since then from ₹18.29 lakh crore in March 2018 to ₹31.33 lakh crore as of March 2022. PTI

3,749 The number of Bangladesh natives staying in Odisha illegally, according to a reply by the Minister of State for Home T. K. Behera in the Assembly. A total of 1,57,432 Bangladeshi refugees were staying in Odisha of which 1,53,692 people have been rehabilitated, the Minister informed. The majority of 1,04,233 refugees live in the Malkangiri district, the Minister said. PTI

21,200 The number of cases pending before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) at the end of January 2023. This includes 12,963 cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 1,181 cases of Merger and Amalgamation (M&A), and 7,061 other cases, the Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh said in a reply to Lok Sabha. PTI

5 The month-low touched by benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty due to a massive sell-off in banking, finance and auto stocks triggered by fears of potential contagion from the biggest bank failure in the U.S. since 2008. Falling for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 897.28 points or 1.52% to settle at 58,237.85. Only one Sensex stock ended higher while the rest 29 dropped. PTI

1.75 In lakh crore, the target government has set for defence manufacturing including defence exports of ₹35,000 crore by 2024-25. The Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said the value of production undertaken by private companies and state-run defence manufacturers in 2021-22 was ₹86,078 crore while the amount was ₹88,631 crore in 2020-21. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Understanding the Saudi-Iran detente

What has led to the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran? What initially led to the breakdown of relations? Why is the U.S. deprioritising the West Asian region? Is China emerging as a new great power in West Asia?

EXPLAINER

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

Saudi Arabia and Iran, two of West Asia's major powers that have been at odds with each other for decades, agreed to restore diplomatic relations last week in an agreement brokered by China. The rivalry between the two dates back to pre-revolution Iran when they competed with each other for regional dominance. After the 1979 revolution brought down the Iranian monarchy and turned the country into a Shia theocratic republic, sectarian and ideological flavours were added to the mix. In recent times, it had turned into a cold war with both sides supporting their proxies across West Asia. Formal ties between them collapsed in 2016 after the Saudi embassy in Tehran was overrun by protesters following Riyadh's execution of a Shia cleric. Now, under China's mediation, they have agreed to start a new beginning. If peace holds, it could have far-reaching implications for regional security, stability and geopolitics.

What are the terms of the agreement?

Saudi Arabia and Iran started directly talking to each other in 2021 and had held multiple rounds of negotiations thereafter, first in Iraq and then Oman, without any breakthrough. There was, however, a growing realisation on both sides that the diplomatic path should be kept open. In February 2022, a senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official told *The Hindu* in Tehran's National Gardens, "The Saudis now realise that they don't have an alternative to having stable relations with us. It's too early to say if there will be a breakthrough, but we're talking." When China's President Xi Jinping visited Riyadh last December, he pushed for a rapprochement between the two. In January, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said in Davos, Switzerland, that Riyadh had "reached out [to Iran] and we are trying to find a path to dialogue", without specifying China's role. Last week, the reconciliation was announced after days-long secret talks in Beijing.

Finer details of the agreement are yet to be unveiled. But officials on both sides say, according to reports, that Iran has agreed to prevent further attacks against Saudi Arabia, especially those from the Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen (Iran backs Houthis, a Shia militia in Yemen while the Saudis back the government forces). Saudi Arabia, on its part, agreed to rein in *Iran International*, a Farsi news channel that is critical of the Iranian regime (which the Iranian intelligence has termed a terrorist organisation). The Foreign Ministers of both countries would meet soon to thrash out the terms of the reconciliation before reopening embassies in each other's capitals in two months. China is also planning to host a cross-Gulf conference of Iran and the six Gulf monarchies (Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman, who make up the Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC) this year to further strengthen peace in the region.

Why did Saudi Arabia reach out to Iran?

West Asia has been undergoing strategic realignments in recent years. In 2020, the UAE became the first Arab country to normalise relations with Israel in a quarter century. In the following years, Israel and Arab countries deepened their partnerships. In 2021, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and their allies decided to end their failed blockade of Qatar. The U.S. was also trying to broker a normalisation agreement between Saudi Arabia and Israel. One of the key drivers of these realignments is the U.S.'s deprioritisation of West Asia. The U.S., the traditional great power in the region, has bigger foreign policy challenges in its hand now such as the Russian war in Ukraine and China's rise in the Indo-Pacific. America's allies in the region see the twin realities of a power vacuum created by the U.S.'s deprioritisation and the challenge posed by Iran's rise. To address these problems, the U.S. wanted to bring the two pillars of its West Asia policy – Israel and the Arab world – together against Iran so that the American alliance system in the region would not be disrupted. While the UAE chose this path through the Abraham Accords, the Saudis decided to go slow on reconciling with Israel, especially since violence kept spreading in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

Additionally, relations between Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have been rocky in recent years. The bedrock of the partnership, which goes back to the meeting between King Abdul Aziz bin Saud and President Franklin Roosevelt aboard *USS Quincy* in 1945 off Egyptian waters, was America's security guarantees in return for Saudi oil. The U.S. is now one of the top oil producers in the world and is not as dependent on the Gulf Arabs as it used to be during the Cold War. This allowed American Presidents to expedite the U.S.'s deprioritisation of the region. When Saudi oil facilities were attacked in 2019 (for which Iran was widely blamed), the U.S. looked away. This seems to have prompted the Saudis to look for alternative solutions for the Iran problem. The solution they came up with was to reach out to the Iranians.

What led Iran to accept the deal?

Iran is going through one of the toughest phases of economic isolation and domestic pressure. Tehran knows that getting a reprieve from Western sanctions is not a near-term possibility and at home, despite its crackdown, protests refuse to die down. Its economy is deteriorating and its currency, the rial, is struggling. Iran wanted Chinese investments and support for the rial. According to Iranian media reports, China allowed Tehran to withdraw parts of the $20 billion funds that were frozen with Chinese banks (after the U.S. sanctions). So, while struggling with isolation and sanctions, a deal with Saudi Arabia, under China's mediation, could open economic lifelines for Iran. And strategically, Iran knows that such a deal could complicate American effort to rally Arab countries and Israel against it. So economically and strategically, a reconciliation is beneficial for Tehran, at least in a tactical sense.

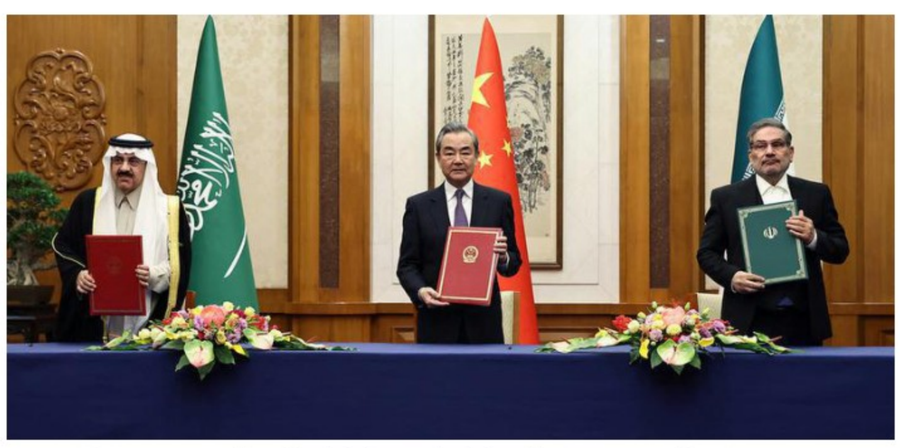
What does China gain from the deal?

Unlike the U.S., which has a history of military interventions in West Asia, China comes with a cleaner record. While the U.S.'s ties with Saudi Arabia faced headwinds in recent years and it has hostile ties with Iran, China has warm ties with both – it is a leading buyer of Saudi oil and the largest trading partner of Iran. This allowed China to use its economic leverage to bring the parties closer.

China has economic, regional and strategic interests in playing the role of a peace broker in West Asia. China is the world's largest oil buyer and stability in the energy market is essential for its continued rise. If a detente between Saudi Arabia and Iran can offer some stability to West Asia in particular and global energy supplies in general, China stands to benefit from it. Regionally, the agreement marks China's arrival as a major power in West Asia. If one looks at all the major peace initiatives in the region in the post-War world – be it the Camp David agreement (1978), Oslo Accords (1993), the Israel-Jordan Treaty (1994), Middle East Quartet (2002) or the Abraham Accords (2020) – the U.S. was a constant presence. But in the Saudi-Iran reconciliation, the U.S. is absent. This points to larger changes under way in the global order. Besides, China is also trying to send a clear message to countries in the Global South. While the U.S. is busy rallying the Western world to arm Ukraine to push back Russia and weaken Moscow through sanctions, China is quietly brokering peace in the Global South. But this increased role China is playing in West Asia comes with risks. It's a region prone to conflicts. And the Saudi-Iran rivalry is multilayered – economic, geopolitical and sectarian. If the peace doesn't hold and old rivals go back to their old ways, it would raise serious questions about both China's leverage and its capacity for sustaining its big ticket diplomatic initiatives.

How does the U.S. look at the deal?

U.S. officials have welcomed the reconciliation. The public narrative is that peace between two of the major rival powers in West Asia would help stabilise the region and benefit the global energy market, which is good news for everyone. But from a strategic point of view, the U.S. would be facing unpleasant questions about the agreement. The Iran nuclear deal is practically dead. The U.S. wants Saudi Arabia to normalise ties with Israel and put up a joint front against Iran. And even when it is deprioritising the region, the U.S. would not like to lose its influence in West Asia. But now, when it looks at the region, it sees an ally (Saudi Arabia) drifting further away, a rival who it wanted to contain (Iran) making new friends and its global challenger (China) spreading and deepening its influence in a region which the U.S. had dominated since at least the Suez War of 1956.



Wang Yi, the top Foreign Policy official of China with Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and Musaad bin Mohammed, Saudi Arabia's National Security Adviser in Beijing on March 10. REUTERS

Towards a new dawn

Two of West Asia's major powers, Iran and Saudi Arabia, have agreed to restore diplomatic relations in an agreement brokered by China. This map shows the range of influence each power has in the region through their allies or proxies

For stability: Saudi Minister of State and National Security Adviser Musaad bin Mohammed, meets the Iranian Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, in Beijing, China on March 10. REUTERS

- Iran has direct influence in Iraq (through political parties and Shia militias), Syria (through the regime of Bashar Assad), Lebanon (Hezbollah), Yemen (Houthis) and Gaza (Islamic Jihhad)
- Saudi Arabia has direct influence in Yemen (through the government of Hadi Mansour) and Lebanon (through the Sunni parties). Saudi Arabia used to support some rebel factions in Syria during the Civil War, but it's not active any more. They are trying to reach out to different Shia factions in Iraq but are not very successful

THE GIST

Saudi Arabia and Iran, two of West Asia's major powers that have been at odds with each other for decades, agreed to restore diplomatic relations last week in an agreement brokered by China.

Finer details of the agreement are yet to be unveiled. But officials on both sides say, that Iran has agreed to prevent further attacks against Saudi Arabia, especially those from the Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen. Saudi Arabia, on its part, agreed to rein in *Iran International*, a Farsi news channel that is critical of the Iranian regime.

China has economic, regional and strategic interests in playing the role of a peace broker in West Asia. China is the world's largest oil buyer and stability in the energy market is essential for its continued rise.

Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it !

– Winston Churchill

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2 All India Rank
Dhananjay Raman
Student of UDAYA - Two Year (VII - VIII) + Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

3 All India Rank
Anant Lunia
Student of Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

IIT-JEE 2012

1 All India Rank
Arpit Agrawal
Student of ASCENT - One Year Classroom Program (X) + Two Year Classroom Program (XI & XII)

2 All India Rank
Bijoy Singh Kochar
Student of ASCENT - Two Year Classroom Program (IX & X) + PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (XI & XII)

3 All India Rank
Nishanth N Koushik
Student of PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (XI & XII)

Results are from Common Merit List only.

- ✓ **Success story of FIITJEE students is continuing in 2023. 7 Long Term Classroom Program Students achieve an overall 100 NTA Score in JEE Main 2023 (Session-1). As usual, highest for any institute in the country.**

Soham Das
Student of FIITJEE UDAYA - One Year (VIII) + Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

Abhineet Majety
Student of FIITJEE World School (IX-X) + PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (XI - XII)

Amogh Jalan
Student of FIITJEE Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

Rishi Kalra
Student of FIITJEE Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

Nipun Goel
Student of FIITJEE PANINI - Two Year Integrated Program (XI - XII)

Gulshan Kumar
Student of FIITJEE Two Year Classroom Program (XI - XII)

Mayank Soni
Student of FIITJEE One Year Classroom Program (XII)

FIITJEE is the only institute that clearly mentions the exact & complete details of the Classroom Program(s) of enrolled students while publishing the result of any competitive or scholastic exams. We are the only Ethical, Transparent & Honest Institute in India.

REWARDS *for* **EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT**

Most of the students dream to be able to fund their studies at IITs with their own money. Realising this "self respect need", FIITJEE instituted Cash Rewards for its students achieving notable success in JEE Advanced, JEE Main, Olympiads, XII Board, NTSE & Jr. Sc. Olympiad. These Rewards even enable students to support their parents financially while self financing their studies at IITs. For outstanding performers, FIITJEE Rewards may also provide enough seed capital for their startups.

Scan the QR Code for complete Rewards details

Need we say more !

Select the coaching institute carefully for the sake of your career. Consider the following

- ✓ Does the institute have a single system preparation for all your goals ?
- ✓ Does the institute have an excellent faculty pool in totality ?
- ✓ Does the institute have pattern proof study material ?
- ✓ Does the institute have the ability to forecast your Success Potential & Rank Potential Index at various stages of your preparation and guide you to maximise your potential ?
- ✓ Does the institute have the ability to create Test Papers, similar to actual scholastic / competitive exams ?
- ✓ Does the institute teach in a reasonable class size to facilitate proper learning – optimum student - teacher ratio ?
- ✓ Does the institute have Ethics, Value System, Transparency – think how it can impact you ? There are several unethical mafia type institutes that have stolen or hijacked results.
- ✓ Does the institute have an overall seamless system of education ?

Transforming Performance !

FIITJEE

31 YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

Bangalore Centres - HSR Layout : 119, S. S. Plaza , 13th Cross, 6th Sector, Outer Ring Road, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 102 Ph: 080 - 49149900, 8904795799, 9742288873, 9513745155
Jayanagar : 162, 36th Cross Road, 7th Main Rd, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560041 Ph : 9742255583 | **Web: www.fiitjeebangalore.com** | **Hostel Facility Available**

National Admissions Office: FIITJEE House, 29-A, Kalu Sarai, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi Web: www.fiitjee.com Buy books at www.megacosmcognitions.com www.facebook.com/fiitjeeindia123 www.twitter.com/fiitjee www.youtube.com/fiitjeeltd

The Premier Institute for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, various Olympiads & NTSE

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e-Mail : query@fiitjee-eschool.com | To receive a call back, give a missed call on **9289550392** |
For Program Enquiry, call on 8400928400 | **www.fiitjee-eschool.com**

Governor adopts TB patients

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Monday adopted 100 TB patients in the State as a Ni-Kshay Mitra of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. He also distributed food baskets to the patients at Raj Bhavan to raise awareness about community participation in making India a TB-free country.

Mr. Gehlot urged well-to-do individuals, corporate houses and social activists to adopt TB patients and make personal contributions towards achieving a TB-free India.

Embassy REIT commits over ₹300 crore to green initiatives

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Embassy Office Parks REIT announced that it has committed over ₹300 crore to its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) programme across its 43.6 million sq.ft pan-India portfolio. It commissioned the first phase of its 20 MW solar rooftop project WHERE, aimed to generate 30 million units of solar power, offsetting around 25,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions.

As part of its 2040 net zero carbon operations goal, Embassy REIT aims to achieve 75% renewable energy usage by 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner M/s.VANDANA 3/S PROPERTIES, A registered Partnership Firm, Having its office at No.2257, 15th C Cross, 21st A Main, Sector–I HSR Layout, Bangalore Represented by it's Partners 1.Mr. T.Sudhakar, 2.Mr.Anwar Basha, 3.Mr.Bhagyaraj.V.C and Mr.Siva Sankar. G.Any person/s having any claim over the schedule property may lodge his/her/their objections or claims in writing with all documentary evidence with regard to such claims, to the undersigned within 5 days hereof, failing which my client will proceed to complete the purchase. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained and not binding upon my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing converted Survey Number 28/1B, {converted videConversion certificate bearing No.ALN/SR(AS)/2/1997-98, dated: 21/02/2004, issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Bangalore South Sub Division Bangalore, situated at Sompura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District measuring 1 acre 24 guntas, and bounded on the East by: Property belongs to Smt.Seethamma, West by: Government Road, North by:Property belongs to Sri.Subramanya Shetty and South by: Property belongs to Sri.Chowda Reddy.

Prathima. C.R, Advocate,
Room No.7, 1st floor, Janatha Building (MBS Building), 11th Cross, H.Siddaiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bangalore – 560 027

Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan (MSAPS)
(A Government of Odisha initiative under School & Mass Education Department)
A1 Block, 6th Floor, Toshali Bhawan, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Email: reachout@moschool.in, www.moschool.in

Application for the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), MSAPS

Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan (MSAPS) invites applications from Indian nationals for its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). MSAPS is a registered society under Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha to provide a platform for individuals, associations, social impact organizations, foundations, philanthropists, CSRs, companies and others for contributing to the development of the school ecosystem in Odisha. The CEO will be responsible for overseeing the administration, programmes and strategic plan of the organization along with alumni mobilization, programme outreach, contribution management, and co-ordination with government / different departments and media relations. The engagement is purely contractual and for one year in the first stage.

Application consisting of a cover letter and an up-to-date CV should be sent through email to **reachout@moschool.in** or through registered post to office of MSAPS **by 3rd April 2023**. For more details of the posts and full job descriptions, visit the Mo School website **www.moschool.in** and click on ***Advertisement for Post of CEO, Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan***. Only applications of short-listed candidates will be acknowledged.

Sd-
State Project Director,
OSEPA-cum-Member Secretary, MSAPS

n-113 OIPR-27045/11/0029/2223

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI www.midnglb@rediffmail.com, Phone : 08472 -220196
IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-4/2022-23/ 5360 DATED : 09-03-2023

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-4) :-

1) Detail of work: THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER P.M.K.S.Y. FOR THE YEAR 2022-23, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Rs. 124,15,368.00**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class-1, 4) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee As Per e-Portal E.M.D. Rs. 2,00,000.00, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **16-03-2023 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 6) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **17-03-2023 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 7) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **18-03-2023 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **20-03-2023 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 9) Addl. information : Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 10) Address of E-Portal : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1471/MC&A/2022-23

MANGALORE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, MANGALAGANGOTHRI-574199.
No.MU/REG/EST(E2)/29/2021 Date: 10.03.2023

NOTIFICATION

Applications in the prescribed form are invited from qualified candidates of Indian Nationality (and also belonging to Karnataka State SC/ST List) for the following SC/ST Backlog Non-teaching Posts in Mangalore University/Constituent Colleges. The applications in TEN sets together with necessary documents should be sent in the envelope by RPAD, superscribed on top of the cover "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF....." addressed to THE REGISTRAR, MANGALORE UNIVERSITY, MANGALAGANGOTHRI - 574199, D.K., KARNATAKA on or before **10.04.2023, by 5.00 P.M.** Candidates may also submit their applications in person and obtain acknowledgement.

NON TEACHING BACKLOG POSTS

Cadre	Group	Vacancies	Reservation
TECHNICIAN GRADE II (Pay Scale: Rs.27650-650-29600-750-32600-850-36000-950-39800-1100-46400-1250-52650/-)	C	01	ST
SHIFT MECHANIC (Pay Scale: Rs.21400-500-22400-550-24600-600-27000-650-29600-750-32600-850-36000-950-39800-1100-42000/-)	C	01	ST
COOK/ASSISTANT COOK (Pay Scale: Rs.18600-450-20400-500-22400-550-24600-600-27000-650-29600-750-32600/-)	D	02	SC - 01 ST - 01

NOTE : (1) Candidates belonging to Karnataka State are only eligible to apply for these backlog posts.
(2) Applications of SC candidates will be considered only if ST candidates are not available for the posts reserved for ST and Vice-versa as per the G.O. No. DPAR 19 SBC 89 dated 12.07.1989.
(3) If women candidates are not available for the posts reserved for them, the applications of men candidates will be considered. Therefore, men also may apply for the posts reserved for women.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Technician Grade II:
ITI Certificate with atleast three years experience OR HSC with 5 years experience in the required trade (in case I.T.I. Certificate holders are not available)

Shift Mechanic:
(i) Must have passed S.S.L.C. or other equivalent qualification.
(ii) Must have passed certificate Course of not less than one year in Electrical Wiring or equivalent from a recognised institution.

Desirable: Experience of not less than 2 years in the concerned field.

Cook/Assistant Cook:
(i) A Pass in S.S.L.C or equivalent.
(ii) Three years experience in any reputed Hotels / Organisation or certificate in cooking from recognized institution.

AGE LIMIT: Minimum -18 Years Maximum - 40 years

Application & Processing Fee: For all the posts Rs.200/-

The prescribed application forms along with the detailed notification can be downloaded from the University Website : www.mangaloreuniversity.ac.in.

The Application fees should be paid through Challan or by means of crossed Demand Draft drawn in favor of The Finance Officer, Mangalore University payable at Mangalagangothri / Mangalore or through online and submitted alongwith the filled application.

Sd/-, Registrar
DIPR/ADM/MCA/1510/22-23 dt. 13.03.2023

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 53/2022-23 Date: 08.03.2023

In the Tender Notice seen above Tender is invited from eligible contractors for total 11 works through Manual and e-proc coming under sub divisions of Chikkamagalur Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District. Details of capabilities to undertaking or having implemented the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW-1, 2 & 4) should be attached. Contractors can be awarded the contract only if they have the minimum eligibilities as mentioned in Act 3. Minimum Approx. Amount Rs. 4.00 lakh and Maximum Approx. Amount Rs. 200.00 lakhs. For 3 Manual works pay the prescribed fee and submit application requesting blank Tender Form on 15.03.2023 and obtain blank Tender Form on 16.03.2023 and submit filled Tenders on 17.03.2023 up to 4.00 PM. For Tender to be submitted through e-proc for 5 works (on 16.03.2023 for 1 work, on 18.03.2023 for 2 works and on 21.03.2023 for 5 works, within 4.00 PM) tender should be submitted. For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagalur.
DIPR/ckm/No.305/mca/22-23/2106

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
ಆಗು ನೀ ಅನಿಕೇತನ
BE BOUNDLESS
Central College Campus, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph.No. 080- 22961016/22131385, E-mail- registrarbcu@gmail.com

Indent No: BCU/2022-23/IND44 **Date: 11.03.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal only https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/)

NAME OF THE WORK	Providing Infrastructure for Digitalization of Library, Bengaluru City University, Central College Campus Bengaluru
EMD	Rs. 2,37,500/-
LAST DATE FOR QUERIES	14-03-2023 Up to 11.00 hrs.
PRE BID MEETING DATE AND PLACE	14-03-2023 at 11.00 hrs. Registrar's Office, Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER	18-03-2023 Up to 16.00 hrs.
OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL BID	20-03-2023 at 16.00 hrs.
OPENING OF THE FINANCIAL BID	21-03-2023 at 16.30hrs.

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
DIPR/CP/5251/AKAR/22-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7980 DATE: 10/03/2023

Time Extension e-Tender Notification-1

Short term e-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7601 Dated 27/02/2023 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the work s at Sl No. 4 & 5, is as below.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 2 :1)Pre-bid meeting date: 14-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 15-03-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-03-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 20-03-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 1 :1)Pre-bid meeting date: 17-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed.2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 18-03-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 21-03-2023 up to 5.00 PM,4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 23-03-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2029/KSMCA/2022-23

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, No.1, HLBC, Division, Channarayapatna

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 25/2022-23 DATED :13.03.2023. Through e-procurement Two tender System

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Electronic tenders on ITEMWISE TENDERS on e-procurement portal are invited by the Executive Engineer, No1, HLBC, Division, Channarayapatna in Karnataka from registered with the eligible KPWD/CPWD, public organization contractors for the work mentioned here under. Total No of works:3 works Types of works: Providing additional tanks filling under Alagondanahally LIS in Dandiganahalli Hobli Channarayapatna taluk. Estimated Amount: Rs. 416.20 Lakhs to Rs. 421.53 Lakhs E.M.D. Details: Rs. 625000/- to Rs. 633000/- The contractor can obtain the e-proc documents and can access eproc. For Two tender system works Contractors can download the documents form 14.03.2023 to 21.03. 2023 upto 4.00 PM will be the last date for submission of application through eproc. Date of Opening of Technical bid is on 23.03.2023 at 4.00 PM, and financial bid will be opened soon after the approval to technical bid. If any variation found in amount put to tender and E.M.D, amount mentioned in the bid document will be consider as final. Note: Further details can be obtained from the above office or e-procurement website (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC
ಮಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/1247/2022–23 **Division, Channarayapatna**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7977 DATE: 10/03/2023

Time Extension e-Tender Notification-1

Short term e-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7480 Dated 20/02/2023 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the work s at Sl No. 1, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21 & 22, is as below.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 2 : 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 14-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 15-03-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-03-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 20-03-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 1 & 3 to 10 :1)Pre-bid meeting date: 17-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed.2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 18-03-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 21-03-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 23-03-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2023/KSMCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7975 DATE: 10/03/2023

Time Extension e-Tender Notification-1

Short term e-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7605 Dated 27/02/2023 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the work s at Sl No. 9 & 13 to 15, is as below.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 1 & 3:1)Pre-bid meeting date: 14-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 15-03-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-03-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 20-03-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 2 & 4 : 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 17-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 18-03-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 21-03-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 23-03-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2026/KSMCA/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (RRN),
Lakes Division, Room No.308, 3rd Floor,
New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.
No: EE-RRNagar/Lakes/Tend-11/2022-23 Date: 13-03-2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer (RRN), Lakes Division, BBMP for the works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing PMC for **Package-7:** Installation of Sluice Gate (Flood Escape Gate) for Lakes in RR Nagar Zone.	**710.00**	**50000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Bid Documents can be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 13-03-2023. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **16-03-2023 at 15.00 Hrs. at the Office of the Executive Engineer (RR Nagar), Lakes, BBMP. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hrs on 20-03-2023. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on **21-03-2023 at 16.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer (RR Nagar), Lakes, BBMP.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (RRN), Lakes Division, BBMP.

Department of Agriculture
(RKVY Division)
Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560 001.
No.: DDA(IEC)/CPP/GeM/2022-23 Date: 10.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture has established 742 Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSK), one in each Hobli, to provide services and information required by the farmers. Majority of the schemes of the Department are being implemented through K-KISAN portal. From 2020-21 e-Office is implemented in Commissionerate of Agriculture. With this background department intents to procure 02 Colour printers, 21 Black and White printer cum copiers, 08 High speed scanners.

DoA invites the **"Proposals"** from interested suppliers (Manufacturers / Authorised Distributors / Authorised Agents). The Bid document containing instructions to Bidders, criteria for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be downloaded from the GeM portal (**mkp.gem.gov.in**) and the Proposals shall be submitted as per the provisions of the tender document.

Bid submission closing date: **20.03.2023 upto 5:00pm**, Opening of bid documents: **20.03.2023 at 5:30pm** .

DoA reserves the right to cancel this invitation and / or invite fresh Proposals with or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Director fo Agriculture &
Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/CP/JA/5232/2022-23

THEHONBLE MOTOR VEHICLE COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL KULITHALAI
MCOP.NO: 143/2017

Elangovan S/O. Ramasamy,
Thimampatty, Kulithalai, Karur.
...Petitioner

(VS)

Senthil Kumar S/O. Ganesan,
No.320/4, Av Road, Kalasipalayam,
Bangalore 560 002.
...1st Respondent

NOTICE GIVEN BY PETITIONER

The Notice Sent By The Court To The Said First Respondent Are Not Independent. Therefore By Gazette As Ordered by The Said Court. Notification Is Made. Vaidha On The Said Petition Has Been Place On **11.04.2023** If there Is Any Objection To The Said Petition, They Should Appear Is The Said Court At The Said Land At **10:30 am** And Express Their Objection. It Is Here By Declared That In Case Of Default, It will be Judged Unilaterally.

A.B.Meenaksh Sundaram B.A., B.L.,
Petition Advocate,
Kulithalai.
Phone 9952131592

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement mode only)

Chief Engineer(Ele)., O&M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga invites tender for the following Civil Engineering works coming under jurisdiction of **Chitradurga Zone** through e-procurement mode only (Two cover system). Tender Notification No.: **CEE/CZ/EE(C)/F-2&3/2022-23/11378 Dtd: 10.03.2023**

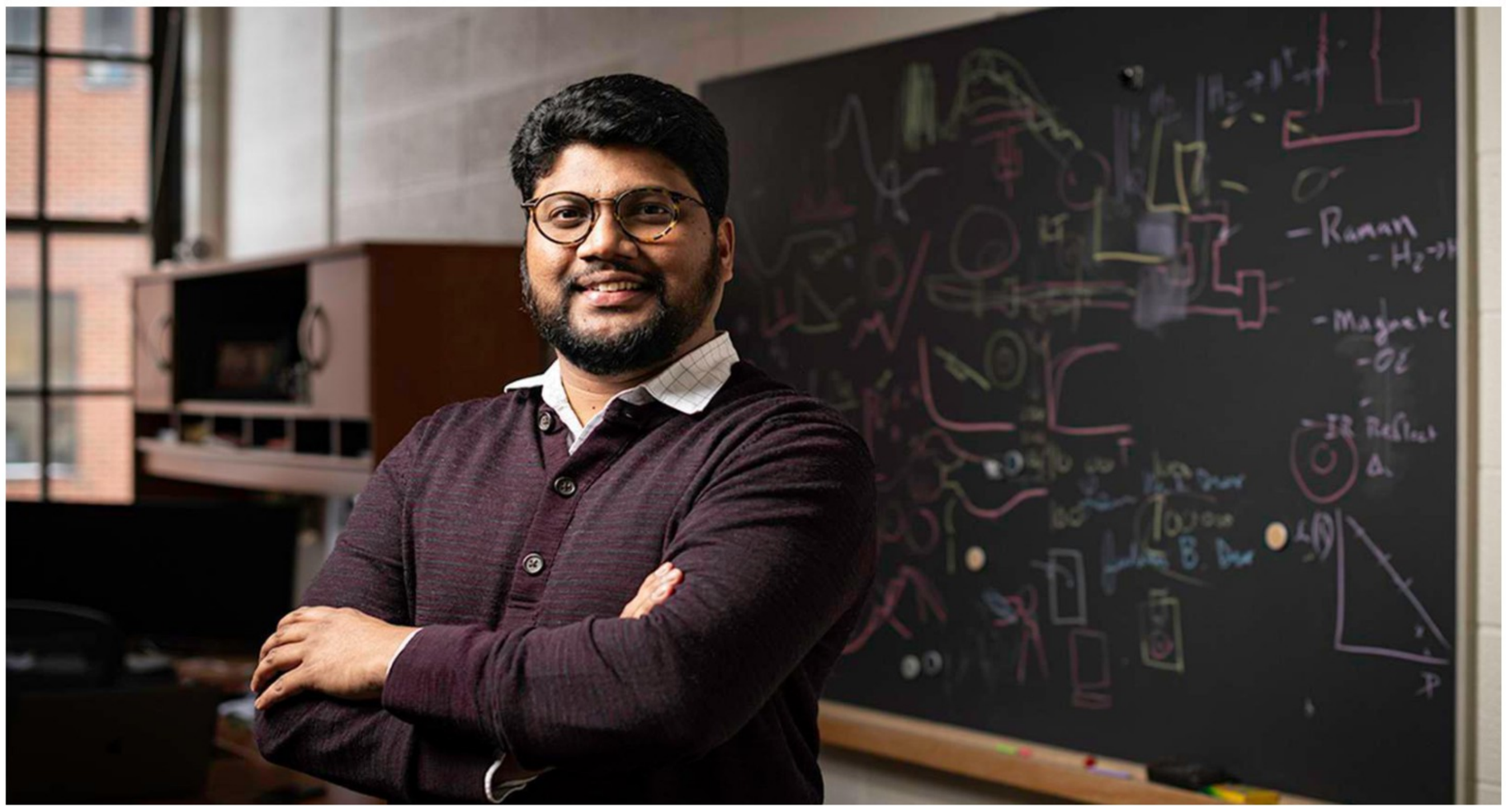
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	Category	Call
1	Construction of Section Office building at BESCOM colony premises, **Belaguru. (Hosadurga Tq).**	**34.00**	**68,000/-**	**OTHERS**	**Call-2**
2	Construction of New Section office building at BESCOM colony premises, **Ranganathapura. (Hiriyur Tq).**	**48.50**	**97,000/-**	**OTHERS**	**Call-2**
3	Construction of O&M Unit-1 & 2 office building by dismantling old office building at BESCOM colony premises, **Challakere.**	**50.00**	**50,000/-**	**SC**	**Call-2**
4	Construction of Additional record room at 2nd floor of Division office building, BESCOM, **Chitradurga.**	**15.00**	**18,750/-**	**SC**	**Call-3**
5	Construction of O&M Unit-3 & 4 Office building by dismantling old office building at BESCOM new colony premises, **Chitradurga.**	**50.00**	**50,000/-**	**ST**	**Call-2**

The prospective bidders interested to participate are advised to register their user ID under website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and log-in into e-procurement on or after **15.03.2023.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Ele).
O & M Zone, BESCOM,
Chitradurga.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

ABSTRACT



University of Rochester Assistant Professor Ranga Dias. J. ADAM FENSTER /UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

How a paper on room-temperature superconductors is creating controversy

A new study led by Ranga Dias at the University of Rochester, reported discovering room-temperature superconductivity in nitrogen-doped lutetium hydride at roughly a thousand atmospheres of pressure. The discvery has been turning heads but not for the right reasons

Vijay B. Shenoy

At every power plant, a portion of the electricity generated is lost during transmission because the wires and cables that carry the current have electrical resistance. We can mitigate this to a large extent if we use a material that does not resist the flow of current. Physicists discovered such materials a century ago – they are called superconductors. They have since realised that superconductors can exhibit truly quantum phenomena that have the potential to enable revolutionary technologies, such as enabling efficient quantum computers.

'Holy grail'

All the materials we now know to be superconductors become that way in special circumstances. Outside those circumstances, they resist the flow of current. For example, aluminium becomes superconducting at a devilishly cold temperature of less than -250°C. Physicists and engineers have been toiling to find materials that superconduct electricity in ambient conditions, that is at one or a few atmospheres of pressure and at room temperature. Given their potential, finding such materials is one of the holy grails of physics and materials science.

The theory that explains why some materials become superconductors in some conditions suggests that hydrogen and materials based on it could hold great promise in this pursuit. And just as predicted, in 2019, scientists in Germany found lanthanum hydride (LaH_{10}) to be a superconductor at -20° C, but under more than a million atmospheres of pressure – pressure that is only realised at the centre of the earth.

This is where a new study, published in *Nature* on March 8, becomes relevant. Researchers in the U.S., led by Ranga Dias at the University of Rochester, reported discovering room-temperature superconductivity in nitrogen-doped lutetium hydride at roughly a thousand atmospheres of pressure, which on the face of it is a great advance.

The method

The key is the choice of the material. The authors specifically suggest that the presence of nitrogen is what led to the findings. They found a way to push some nitrogen into the crystal of lutetium hydride by developing a high-pressure synthesis process. Superconductivity in the material is brought about by the (microscopic) jiggling motion of the crystal, and the investigators intuited that the right amount of nitrogen could induce the right amount of jiggling – to produce superconductivity at room temperature but without destabilising the crystal.

The nitrogen-doped lutetium hydride that Dias et al. produced was stable in ambient conditions (with a blue colour) but not yet superconducting. When they applied a thousand atmospheres of pressure to this material, it turned red, indicating a change in the nature of the electrons in the material. When the scientists measured the material's electrical resistance, magnetic properties, and thermal properties in these conditions, they concluded that the material had become a superconductor.

The data they have reported in their paper shows a sharp drop in the electrical resistance around room temperature, the expulsion of magnetic fields, and a hump in the heat capacity (the sample expels heat from itself when cooled, as the electrons organise into the more-ordered superconducting state). These are all telltale signs of superconductivity, which they found in about 35% of the samples they tested.

Questioning the study

However, this story of blue to red is not so black and white. On purely scientific grounds, the claims made by the authors depend strongly on the correctness of the way they processed their data.

For one, the group inferred that the material's electrical resistance had dropped to zero by collecting resistance data and then subtracting the contributions from sources other than the material. The validity of this procedure has to be carefully ascertained; some experts have already expressed an inclination to outright reject the technique as being completely unfounded.

The measurement of the material's diamagnetism (i.e. when it expels magnetic fields) also suffers the same criticism. To measure the heat capacity, the authors have developed a new method that they claim to have validated using a known superconductor, magnesium diboride (MgB_2). This also has to be carefully vetted.

While there are clearly stated scientific criticisms, they are neither alone nor, among physicists themselves, the most urgent. The main point of contention lies with the principal investigator of this work, Dr. Dias, who has had a controversial past. His recent claim of room-temperature superconductivity in a carbonaceous sulphur hydride published in the same journal, *Nature*, was retracted by the editors (as opposed to the authors requesting for it) after several experts pointed to serious problems with the data presented. Other physicists have also published (non-peer-reviewed) papers online with a lot of supporting data analysis that anyone with the inclination can inspect and study. They directly accuse Dr. Dias of scientific misconduct, including fabricating data.

While Dr. Dias has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, the community's rather bemused reaction to his new paper is understandable.

Curiosity will prevail

On the whole, when all is said and done, the scientific curiosity of researchers – and the obvious significance of the discovery that has been claimed – is likely to prevail, and more research groups are likely to explore ways to reproduce the results. The data analysis and subtraction methods used by the authors will be the first to be scrutinised, in microscopic detail. Further, the fact that the claimed phenomenon is occurring at a thousand-times atmospheric pressure will allow more research groups to enter the fray. The previous systems required pressures of more than a million atmospheres, facilities for which are available only with a handful of groups around the world.

It remains to be seen if the physics community will heed Dr. Dias's call this time around.

Vijay B. Shenoy is Professor, Centre for Condensed Matter Theory, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As *The Elephant Whisperers* wins the Oscar for the Best Documentary Short, here is a quiz on other award-winning documentaries

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1

Which documentary that won an Oscar in 2011, examines the global financial crisis of 2008 and its underlying causes, featuring interviews with financial experts and insiders?

QUESTION 2

The 2022 short documentary *The Elephant Whisperers* by debutant director Kartiki Gonsalves based on the lives of the caretakers of orphaned elephants, Raghu and Ammu, is set in which National Park?

QUESTION 3

Who composed the music for *Smile Pinki,* the 2008 American documentary film directed by Megan Mylan, which won the 81st Academy Award for Best Documentary (Short Subject). The film depicts the story of Pinki and Ghutaru, two children in rural India who receive corrective surgery for cleft lips.

QUESTION 4

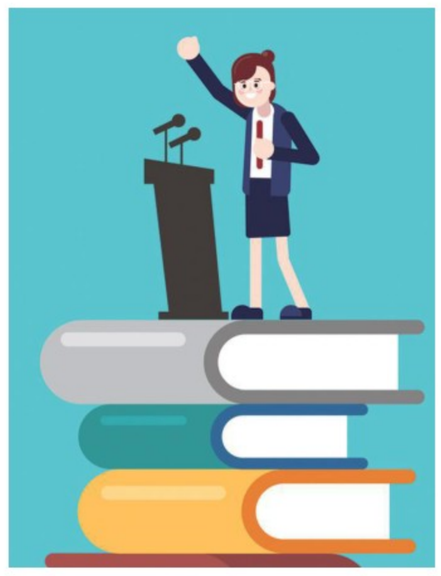
What is the name of the documentary that features a young Pakistani girl named Malala Yousafzai, who survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban and went on to become a global advocate for education and women's rights?

QUESTION 5

Which documentary film directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Daniel Junge about acid attacks on women in Pakistan won the 2012 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject, making its directors, Pakistan's first Oscar winners.

Visual question:
Identify this documentary film maker whose work *All That Breathes* was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This word has its origin in the Latin term meaning 'locked up with key'. **Ans: Conclave**
2. The upper age limit to be eligible to take part in the voting of the Pope and the maximum allowed number of cardinal electors. **Ans: 80 years and 120**
3. The traditionally used material which was burned to announce the election of a new Pope. **Ans: Straw**
4. The first act an elected cardinal does as per the request of the Dean Cardinal. **Ans: Choose a Papal name**
5. The reason why a new Pope will not assume a particular name. **Ans: Peter. Out of respect for the first Pope and to also keep at bay an old prophecy that a Peter II will be the very last pope to serve**
6. The meaning of 'Habemus Papam'. **Ans: The announcement 'We have a Pope' made by the Dean of Cardinals**
7. The traditional blessing a newly-elected pontiff gives that marks the beginning of the new pontificate. **Ans: The blessing 'Urbi et Orbi' (to the city and the world)**
Visual: The pre-Papal name and country of this Pope. **Ans: Jorge Mario Bergoglio and Argentina**
Early Bird: Kevin Toms Skaria



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. S. A. Bhatnagar, New Delhi, wants to know how to use the word 'inveterate.'"

"'Inveterate' means 'long-established (of disease, habit, etc.),' 'habitual.'

He is an inveterate drinker.
She is an inveterate liar.
He is an inveterate gambler.

The word is from Latin 'inveterare,' 'make old'; 'vetus' means 'old.' An inveterate liar is a liar from way back. This word has a bad connotation. It always goes with something that is bad or harmful. You shouldn't say, for example, 'He is an inveterate philanthropist.'"

"Almost every week I get several letters criticising me for not conforming to the views of Wren and Martin, Nesfield and a host of other good grammarians. I have respect for them all. Much of their writing is still valid but not all of it. Like fashion, language changes. In this column, I have tried to point out some of the changes that have taken place in the use of the language. We must remember that what is most important is usage and not mere grammar. What is strictly grammatical may not always be acceptable. 'It's I' is grammatical but the ungrammatical 'It's me' is sanctioned by current usage. Winston Churchill began a radio broadcast with the sentence: "This is me, Winston Churchill." You'll sound pedantic if you say 'It's I.' There was a time when 'consider as' was considered wrong. For example, a sentence like 'I consider him as a fool' was considered wrong for a long time. 'I consider him a fool' was considered correct. But now 'I consider him as a fool' is acceptable. So we must pay attention to current usage. Old grammar books tell us about the structure of the language at the time they were written. But their statements are not true for all time. They have a historical value, but they are not good guides to modern usage.

The following is taken from Hansard, the official record of proceedings of the British Parliament: Lord Houghton of Sowerby: "My Lords, the difference between 'may' and 'shall' is one of the bugbears of the statute law and parliamentary debate. I do not know how many hours I have spent in both Houses of Parliament debating the difference between 'may' and 'shall.' I think we need an Act of Parliament to resolve this difficulty and to declare once and for all that 'may' means 'shall'... anyway in this case 'may' has been translated into 'shall.' Of course we know that it meant 'shall' all the time but I need not pursue it any further.'"

Lord Scarman: "My Lords, I should like to say this to the noble lord. If the word 'shall' is used, the judges will interpret it as 'may.' If the word 'may' is used, the judges will interpret it as 'shall.'"

Word of the day

Purport:
the intended meaning of a communication; the pervading meaning or tenor; have the often specious appearance of being, intending, or claiming; propose or intend (used as noun and verb)

Synonyms: spirit, intent, drift, propose, purpose, aim

Usage: *He purportedly claims that the document is forged.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/purportpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pəˈpɔːt/

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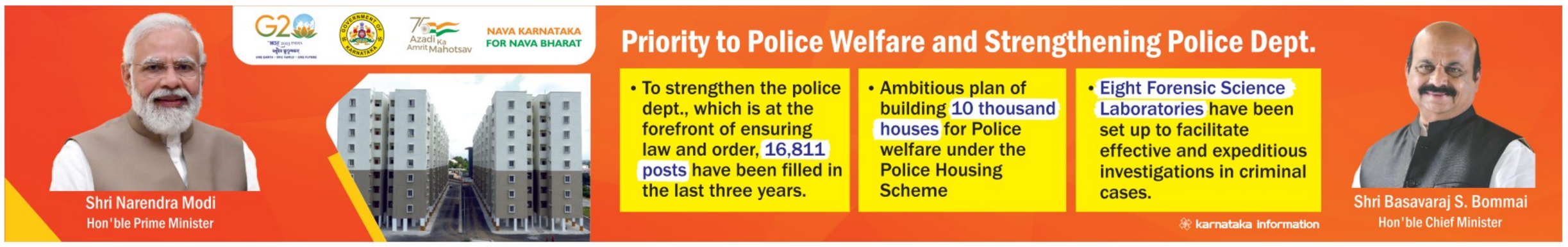
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Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Workers involved in transport of solid waste stage protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hundreds of workers involved in transportation of solid waste, including drivers, helpers, loaders and cleaners, staged a protest at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) head office on Monday, seeking complete abolition of the exploitative contract system and to provide permanent jobs to all the workers.

The workers also sought that the recommendations of the IPD Salappa Committee Report be implemented with immediate effect. In case of failure to initiate any further action towards abolition of contract system, the workers threatened to go on indefinite strike from March 20.

"When the pourakarmikas struck work in July 2022, the State government assured that the pourakarmikas across the State would be made permanent, whereas the drivers, helpers, loaders and cleaners who transport solid waste would be brought under the direct payment system, except those in Bengaluru. Against this obvious discrimination of workers, All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) had raised concerns and demanded that the workers in BBMP who are being heavily exploited under the contract system also be brought under the direct payment system. An assurance was made that the same would be considered by the government, but no progress has been made thus far," said a release.

The workers, under the aegis of BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha and Karmika Samrakshana Trade Union, presented a memorandum with their demands to the Joint Commissioner, who assured to look into the demands of the workers.

NHAI to begin toll collection on expressway from today

In the first phase, toll will be charged for using the main carriage between Bengaluru to Nidaghatta for a stretch of 55 km

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to collect toll on the newly inaugurated Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway from Tuesday. Toll will be collected for using the six-lane main carriage of the expressway from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta. The length of the stretch between the two points is around 55 km.

The authority initially planned to collect toll from February 28, and had also fixed toll fee for various types of vehicles and notified the same.

However, citing "unavoidable reasons", the commencement of toll collection was deferred till March 14. Leaders of the opposition parties had accused the NHAI of collecting toll without completing the service roads.

The NHAI has categorised six types of vehicles for collecting toll.

The NHAI has categorised six types of vehicles for collecting toll. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Toll on expressway between Bengaluru and Nidaghatta (in ₹)

Category	Toll for single journey	Toll for return journey within a day	Local commercial vehicles registered within the district where toll plaza is located	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month
Car /jeep/van	135	205	70	4,525
LCV/LGV/mini-bus	220	330	110	7,315
Truck /bus	460	690	230	15,325
3 axle commercial vehicle	500	750	250	16,715
Heavy construction machinery /earth moving equipment	720	1,080	360	24,030
Oversized vehicle (7 or more axle)	880	1,315	440	29,255

The fee
As per the fee fixed, car owners will have to pay ₹135 for a single trip on Bengaluru-Nidaghatta section. For return journey within a day, the toll is fixed at ₹205. For mini-bus, the toll will be ₹220 and for bus ₹460 (single journey).

Confirming the development, a senior official of the NHAI said, "Toll collection will start from 8 a.m. on Tuesday." As per the toll notification issued earlier, toll will be collected at Kaniminike village in Bengaluru Urban district and Sheshagiri Halli in Ramanagara district.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the expressway and held a roadshow in Mandya. The expressway is one of the major projects in the State which got inaugurated prior to announcement of the dates for the forthcoming Assembly elections.

The access-controlled expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru, built at a cost of ₹8,480 crore, encompasses a portion of National Highway 275 comprising four rail overbridges, nine significant bridges, 40 minor bridges and 89 underpasses and overpasses.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari earlier said that with the new expressway, the travel time from Bengaluru to Mysuru is expected to reduce to 75 minutes.

To be revised
The toll fee is likely to be revised once the entire main carriageway for a distance of 117 km is opened for motorists in the future. At some stretches such as Budanur, works are underway for construction of underpasses and others.

INBRIEF

Power staff threaten strike demanding pay revision

Power employees who work under KPTCL across various electricity supply companies have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from March 16 demanding a pay scale revision. Around 60,000 employees and 45,000 pensioners have decided to get on the streets unless their demands are met. "Our pay scale revision was supposed to happen by April 1, 2022. After the board approval, we requested the State government on September 15 to implement it and it has still not happened. If it does not happen by March 16, the families of over one lakh employees will stage protests," said Raja Nayak, executive president, KPTCL Employees' Union. Power service is expected to take a severe hit as most employees from Director Technical (DT) to linemen and powermen would take part in the strike. As power services come under essential services, ESMA Act might be used against the employees, sources said. P. Ravi Kumar, Chairman, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), said, "This is not the season to go on strike as it is peak summer. However, the KERC is in no way involved in this."

City to have 500 AI-based traffic signals in the next three years

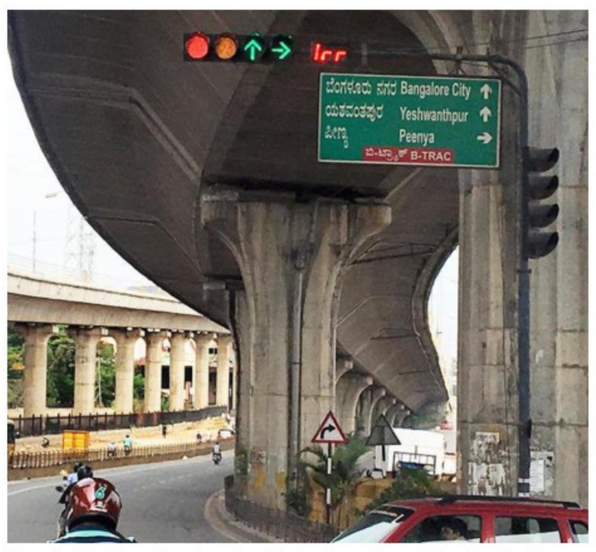
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city traffic police plan to increase the number of signals in and around the city from 363 to 500 over the next three years and implement an 'Adaptive Traffic Controlling System' in phases, M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, said.

Speaking at an interactive session on Road Safety organised by the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC), in association with Bidadi Industries Association (BIA) , here on Monday, he said over the next three years, traffic signal timings will adapt based on actual traffic demand. This will help manage the flow of traffic in a scientific manner, he said.

Citing an example, he said, "If there is an ambulance on the road, it will get an automatic green corridor. Going forward, the focus of city traffic police will be evidence-based contactless interventions based on Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

Explaining the advantages of the Adaptive Traffic Controlling System and Artificial Intelligence-based contactless interventions, he said this technology will enable the city traffic police to focus more on regulation and traffic management, rather than enforcement.



The city traffic police also plan to implement an 'Adaptive Traffic Controlling System'. FILE PHOTO

Elaborating on the adoption of AI-based traffic systems, Mr. Anucheth said that the traffic department has set up an intelligent traffic management system in Bengaluru with violation detection cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. This will enable the traffic police to concentrate more on regulation and traffic management to ensure smoother flow of traffic rather than enforcement, he said.

Explaining the engineering part of the traffic system, Mr. Anucheth said, "Road safety has four components - Engineering and Technological Interventions, Enforcement, Education and Awareness and Emergency response. Data suggests that road safety is a science, and technology interventions as opposed to increased enforcement and traffic fines is far more effective in managing traffic."

"In Bengaluru alone, only 47% of the population use public transport, which is much lower than other metros in the country. The city has 1. 7 crore vehicles on road, which is the second largest for any city in India and the current vehicle to population ratio is 1:1.3. Ideally we need less vehicles with respect to people on the road, and this can only come about with increased use of public transport," he added

"In order to reduce fatalities and deaths on the roads, it is important to move towards collaborative research and increased safety standards along with awareness on the use of these safety standards. It is important to have long term community-based programmes that lead to behavioural changes along with education of policy makers and professionals in terms of thinking of road safety as a public health issue, as road fatalities outnumber cancer or even COVID deaths in the city. This will lead to a more broad-based approach to enhancing road safety," he added.

Vineet Verma, vice-president, BCIC, urged the traffic police to address issues such as time-bound hyper local e-commerce and food delivery that is endangering the lives of delivery personnel, safety at railway crossings which is often chaotic, unscientific speed breakers and unannounced blocking and digging up of lanes and bylanes that often lead to chaos and traffic congestion.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 14		
RISE	06:28	SET 18:30
RISE	00:00	SET 11:10
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 15		
RISE	06:27	SET 18:30
RISE	00:34	SET 12:06
THURSDAY, MAR. 16		
RISE	06:27	SET 18:30
RISE	01:37	SET 13:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	33	17
Bengaluru	33	17

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant but hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be little warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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Chimes
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HC permits BMTC to go ahead with tender process to procure 840 buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday permitted the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) to go ahead with the tender process for procuring 840 buses while taking note that the corporation was introducing disabled-friendly features in buses in a phased manner.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi, passed the order while admitting the petition filed by Sunil Kumar Jain, a 48-year-old person with disability and a chartered accountant.

Stating that certain issues raised by the petitioner on implementation of technical norms to make the BMTC buses disabled-friendly require consideration, the Bench said that no interim order is required to be passed at this stage as the BMTC is enforcing the guidelines to make the public transport buses disabled-friendly in terms of the directions issued by the Union government in a phased manner.

The advocate for BMTC has pointed out to the court that the public transport corporations are required to implement the disabled-friendly features in a phased manner in terms of the Union government's guidelines.

> No interim order is required to be passed at this stage as the BMTC is enforcing guidelines to make the public transport buses disabled-friendly.
>
> HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

The petitioner claimed that BMTC, in its tender, had prescribed that the height of the bus chassis has to be 1,000 mm and this height is contrary to the technical requirement to keep the height between 400 mm and 650 mm, as per norms to make the buses disabled-friendly.

It was also complained in the petition that no provision to provide a wheelchair boarding device at one of the doorways was made in the tender, while also stating that the tender features violate the provisions of the motor vehicles rules amended in terms of the Rights of the Persons with Disability Act, 2016.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, YOGEESWARI, R/a No:5/1, N S Iyengar Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 have changed my name to Geetha Satish Kumar vide affidavit dt: 13.03.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore

I, ROOHI Fathima, D/o Abdul Hussain Dhanaliwala, R/o No.35/1-1, Safina Intesar, Opp. MICO Back West Gate, Chinnan Palya, Bangalore-560030 have changed my name from Roohi Fathima to Ruhi Fathima vide affidavit dated 11-03-2023 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

WE, BHASKAR.N and Divya, R/at No.903, 8th Main, Yamuna River Road, Srinagar, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560050 have changed our son's name from Jeevan B.Gowda to Jashvik.B vide affidavit dated 09-03-2023 before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, AKILA .M, W/o. Nirmal Kumar, Aged about 28 years, Residing at No. 29, 2nd Cross, New Cordial School Road, Sollapuradamma Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 056, do hereby declare that, in my S.S.L.C. Marks Card my mother name has been mentioned as SURUTISHWARI instead of SURULISHWARI M by oversight. My mother correct name is SURULISHWARI M only, which has been mentioned in my mother's PAN Card and Aadhar Card. Vide affidavit dated 04.03.2023 sworn to before VI Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL SUB COURT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
OS 56/2021

Plaintiff : M/s Electronic Technology Park, Kerala (Technopark), Technopark Campus, Kazhakuttom, Thiruvananthapuram represented by its Secretary -Registrar, Mr. Sreevalsan S., aged 60 years S/o Shri. Kesavan, Sreerangam, Sreerangam, Arasummoodu, Kulathoor.P.O., Attipra, Thiruvananthapuram.
Defendants 2 & 3 : 1. Durga Prasad Shetty (Director as its claimed), M/s. Ariva Med Data Infotech Pvt.Ltd., No.29-1, 1 ST A Main Road Atmanand A Colony, Sultan Palaya, Bangalore-560032, Karnataka, Also at No. 813, 3rd Floor, AECS Layout, C-Block, 2nd Main Road, Kundana Halli, Bangalore-560003. 2) Niveditha Durga Prasad Shetty (Director as it is claimed), M/s Ariva Med Data Infotech Pvt.Ltd. No.29-1, 1 ST A Main Road Atmanand A Colony, Sultan Palaya, Bangalore -560032, Karnataka Also at No.813, 3rd Floor, AECS Layout, C-Block, 2nd Main Road, Kundana Halli, Bangalore-560003
It is intimated to the 2nd and 3rd Defendants of the above suit.
The summons issued by this Hon'ble Court to you in this case was returned unserved. The said case is posted on 01/04/2023. You have hereby directed to appear in person or through your Counsel duly instructed on the said date at 11 A.M. before the Hon'ble Court, failing which you will be declared exparte and matter will be decided in your absence. (By Order) (Sd/-)
Counsel for the Plaintiff A.Abdul Kharim.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BINU ALEX aged 53 years, son of Mr.A.N.Alex, residing at No.111, 2nd Cross, Vastu Layout, Near Govt. School, Kudlu, Bangalore 560068 Aadhaar No.8968 2514 5628 hereby inform the General Public that, two original GPA's, both dated 15.12.2019 executed by Ms. Chrisline Thomas & Mr.Jerrin Thomas, children of Mr.Thomas Kavil Thomas, in favour of Mr. Radhakrishna K.V., son of Mr.K.V. Bhat, in respect of the property bearing Municipal No.8 (Old Site No.20, Property No.7/1, VP Khata No.556 & HL No.518/3), situated at 5th 'C' Cross, Muneshwara Swamy Extension, Ejipura, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, PID No.68–192–8, measuring 1101 sq.ft. with residential building having 1780 sq.ft. of built–up area, is lost on 25.12.2022 at 10 am, while carrying it in my bag & travelling on my bike, from my aforesaid residence to Koramangala. I have filed Police Complaint on 11.03.2023 vide Lost Report No.0497467/2023 dated 11.03.2023 regarding the lost GPA's. If there is any dispute or claim over the said property/GPA's, you may inform me within 10 days from the date of this notice & if the original is found, inform me at the address mentioned herein. Mr.Binu Alex (Mob. 9845021318)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ಕಚೇರಿ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ

ನಂ:ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈವಿ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/ಟಿಬಿ–2,3/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2022–23/3258 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–03–2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ರವರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

Bagalkot Taluka
1) Indent No- **55879** (**Gaddanakeri**) APT- 153.10 Lakhs CALL-3
Hungund Taluk (SDP)
1) Indent No- **60981** (**Hadagali**) APT- 6.35 Lakhs
2) Indent No- **60980** (**Hemawadagi**) APT- 5.93 Lakhs
3) Indent No- **60979** (**Koppa SM**) APT- 5.93 Lakhs
4) Indent No- **60976** (**Chinnapur ST vlg ilkal tq**) APT- 6.77 Lakhs
5) Indent No- **60983** (**Basavanal**) APT- 12.13 Lakhs
6) Indent No- **60985** (**Indavar**) APT- 9.32 Lakhs
7) Indent No- **60988** (**Muganur**) APT- 24.57 Lakhs
8) Indent No- **60982** (**Hagedal**) APT- 5.93 Lakhs
9) Indent No- **60991** (**Chikkadapur**) APT- 16.94 Lakhs
10) Indent No- **60993** (**Amblikoppa**) APT- 15.25 Lakhs
11) Indent No- **60491** (**Sulebhavi**) APT- 23.66 Lakhs
12) Indent No- **60994** (**Bheemanagad&Upanal**) APT- 12.65 Lakhs

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಮ್ ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17–03–2023** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ **Indent No- 55879** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ
3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20–03–2023** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18–03–2023** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ.
4) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಳಾಸ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/993/2022–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ

SCHEDULE - I, FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF CHAMUNDI CREDIT AND FINANCE LIMITED

1.	Name of Corporate Person	Chamundi Credit And Finance Limited
2.	Date of Incorporation of Corporate Person	23/04/1982
3.	Authority under which corporate Person is Incorporated/ registered	RoC Bengaluru, Ministry Of Corporate Affairs
4.	Corporate Identity Number/ Limited Liability Identity Number of Corporate Person	U85110KA1982PLC004739
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principle Office (If any) of Corporate Person	No.71/1, 1st Floor, Near R.V Road Circle, R V Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560004
6.	Liquidation Commencement Date of Corporate Person	13.03.2023
7.	Name, address, E -mail Address, Telephone Numbers and the Registration Number of the Liquidator	ABHIJITH C #886, 1st Floor, South End F Cross, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore South, Near Ragigudda Temple, Bangalore, Karnataka-560069. Email: acs.abhijith@gmail.com (M): 9986700338 IBBI Registration Number: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N01246/2022-2023/14234
8.	Last date for submission of claims	12.04.2023

Notice is hereby given that the Chamundi Credit And Finance Limited has commenced voluntary liquidation on 13th March 2023.The stakeholders of Chamundi Credit And Finance Limited are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 12.04.2023 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.
The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

ABHIJITH C
Liquidator, IBBI Registration Number: IBBI/IPA-002/IPN01246/2022-2023/14234

Date : 14.03.2023
Place: Bengaluru

Visvesvaraya Technological University
Ref. VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/T-617/2022-23/7265 dtd.11-03-2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION – 2nd Call

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites (two cover systems) e-tenders for the following work through e-procurement tendring mode. Name of work: Tender for Procurement of Research Equipments to Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, VTU PG Centre, Belagavi under VGST-K-FIST L-2 Grants. Amount put to tender : Rs.10,50,000/-. EMD Rs.25,200/-. Last date for receipt of tender 25-03-2023 up to 2.30 p.m. Date of opening of tender: 27-03-2023 at 11.00 a.m. The details regarding participation in the e-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our VTU website: www.vtu.ac.in and e-procurement portal website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2021/KSMCA/2022-23 Sd/-Registrar

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, P.U. Building, 9th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
No: EE/SN/TEND/22/2022-23 Date: 13-03-2023
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing Security Guards to BBMP Schools and Colleges of East Zone on Outsourced Basis.	338.01	338010.00
2	Providing Cleaning Staff to BBMP Schools and Colleges of East Zone on Outsourced Basis.	56.76	113514.00

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 20-03-2023. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **24-03-2023 at 15.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, 9th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Benglauru. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 04-04-2023. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on **05-04-2023 at 16.00 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, BBMP.

KARNATAKA NIRAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Karnataka Government Enterprise)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN)-U85110KA1998SGCO24503
Fax & Phone No 08332-286223
Mail address:eeglbcknnldiv1@gmail.com
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL GLBC Dn.No.1, Ghataprabha Tq: Gokak, Dist: Belgaum
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

1)Tender Notification No.KNNL/GLBC-1/PB//2022-23/2408 Dtd: 08-03-2023, 2)Tender Notification No.KNNL/GLBC-1/PB//2022-23/2409 Dtd: 09-03-2023

Electronic percentage tender through E-procurement platform in Two cover system in prescribed form are invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL GLBC Dn.No.1, Ghataprabha on behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd., Coffee Board Building Bangalore and from eligible Class-I contractors enrolled under KPWD and Category-III category contractor enrolled under KNNL
1. Work Details: 8 Nos. of Works under H/A 4701 M&MI & 4701-SCP Coming under KNNL GLBC Division No.1 Ghataprabha. 2. Tender Schedule for works is as follows
Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders:18-03-2023 upto 16:00:00, Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid:20-03-2023 upto 11:00:00 Onwards, Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid will intimate after approval of Technical bid. in the office of the The Executive Engineer KNNL GLBC Dn No.1, Ghataprabha. 3.Approximate Amount Put to Tender:Rs 24.96 lakhs to 299.47 lakhs, 4.EMD amount:Rs.50,000.00 to 4,50,000.00

For the details like Name of work, Eligibility of contractor, Tender conditions, Tender processing fee details refere website www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam OR contact the undersigned during office hours (Ph No. (08332) 286223.).

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2031/KSMCA/2022-23 Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL GLBC Dn.No.1,Ghataprabha.

ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ತುಮಕೂರು
ದೂ–2278480, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 2275106,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_tumkur@yahoo.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.tumkurcity.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆತುಮಪಾ/ಆಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್–6/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ 08.03.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 2000ರಂತೆ ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವವರು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: 1. ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಚಿತಾಗಾರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿರುವ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 1,75,75,566/–

: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ :

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09.03.2023** ರಿಂದ **15.03.2023** ರವರೆಗೆ. 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **15.03.2023** ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. 2. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.03.2023** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ತುಮಕೂರು

DIPR/TUM/1102/KSMCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Deputy Commissioner office,
(District Urban Development Cell) Haveri Dist,
Haveri-581110 Phone No : 08375-249097 (Office)
Fax : 08375-249088 e-mail : dc_haveri@yahoo.co.in
ನಂ:ಪುಸ (04)/ಟೆಂಡರ/ವಹಿ– /2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–03–2023

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell Haveri District invites CMC Ranebennur Limits e-tenders from Class-I PWD registered contractors for Chief Minister's Amruth Nagarothan Phase-4 Project work as per KTPP Act 1999 Rule 2000 as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Indent No.	Estimated Value (Rs in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (Rs in Lakhs)	Tender Period (Including Mansoon)
1	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 148240	132.00	1.35	6 Months
2	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147459	88.00	1.32	6 Months
3	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147444	92.40	1.40	6 Months
4	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147432	92.40	1.40	6 Months
5	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147390	103.84	1.05	6 Months
6	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147389	98.56	1.50	6 Months
7	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147382	110.00	1.10	6 Months
8	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147381	124.96	1.25	6 Months
9	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147380	132.00	1.35	6 Months
10	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147379	158.40	1.60	6 Months
11	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 147376	123.20	1.25	6 Months

Note : Amount put to tender is exclusive of applicable GST.
Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-procurement paltform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** tender shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.
Calendar of events and other information's are as follows : (1) Last date for uploading of completed tender documents : **18-03-2023** (2) Technical Bid Opening : **20-03-2023** (3) Financial Bid Opening : **23-03-2023**
Further conditions and further information can be obtained from this being working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the dates will be notified on e-procurement portal only.

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/642/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, DUDC, Haveri**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

No. SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/22-23/5767-69 Date: 10.03.2023

1) Enquiry Nos: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/Erection of 11kV SWGS and Associated works/EE(O)/AE(T)/22-23/EPR-354/Call-3 dated: 09.03.2023 for the work of "Combined Package for the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis**".

Work 1- Associated works with respect to commissioning of 11kV MCVCB panels of MEI make at 220/66/11kV Receiving station Sarjapura coming under TL&SS Division, Yerrandanahalli.

Work 2- Replacement of deteriorated 11kV annunciator Panel and individual 11kV annunciator units by new simplex panels at 66/11kV S/s Attibele.

Work 3- Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler for connecting bank-1A and Transformer-2 at 66/11kV S/s Anekal.

Work 4- Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler and adopter panel for coupling of 11kV Bank-1 and Bank-2 at 66/11kV S/s Jigani.

Work 5- Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler MCVCB for connecting Bank-2A and 3A at 220/66/11kV R/s Yerrandanahalli.

No. SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/22-23/5764-66 Date: 10.03.2023

2) Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/ERECTION OF 220kV BREAKER/EE(O)/AE(T)/22-23/EPR-355/Call-3 dated: 09.03.2023 for the work of Replacement of 220kV Mylasandra-3 line Circuit breakers at 220/66/11kV R/s Yerrandanahalli on partial turnkey basis.

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-procurement-kptcl" or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.03.2023.**

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Elec.), Trans (Maintenance), KPTCL, Ramanagara Circle, 220/66/11 KV Vrushabhavati Valley Station, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru - 26. Ph: 080-29620155.**

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
Harangi Rehabilitation Division, Kushalnagara - 571234
Somwarapet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka State.
Tel.No. : 08276-274365, Fax No. : 08276-274365,
Email : eehrdksh@gmail.com
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
No. 33/2022-23 Date : 13-03-2023
(Through e-procurement Portal Only - Short term)

Item Rate tenders are invited on e-procurement basis by the Executive Engineer, Harangi Rehabilitation Division, Kushalnagara, Taluk, Kodagu District on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible contractors for 7 number of 4701 works and TSP works coming in Kushalanagar taluk jurisdiction. Estimated amount of work Rs. 30.00 lakhs & Rs. 480.00 Lakhs.

The contractors can have access / download tender document from e-procurement portal and the last date to submit the filled tender document is **20-03-2023** till 4.00 pm. Technical bid will be opened on **21-03-2023** at 4.05 pm onwards and Financial bid will be opened after the approval of Technical Bid. All the information is available on e-procurement web-site address **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**.

Tender processing fee as stipulated in the e-procurement portal is applicable for each work. Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during the office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Harangi Rehabilitation Division,
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
Kushalanagar, Somwarpet Taluk,
Kodagu District - 571234, Karnataka

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, QA/QC Division, RR Nagar Zone, R.No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.
No.: EE(QA/QC)/RRN/TEND/01/2022-23 Date:13.03.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION(IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, RR Nagar QA / QC Division, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the Construction of Compound Wall, Improvements to Crematorium, Construction / Improvements to School building, Supplying of Furniture to Govt. and BBMP Schools Development of Lakes in various Constituencies/wards.

Sl. No.	Name of the Place of the Work	Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Kurubarahalli Burial Ground / Kengeri Electrical Crematorium in Yehwanthpur Constituency.	700.00	17,500/-
2	Laggere- RR Nagara Constituency.	1000.00	25,000/-
3	Ward No. 73, Kottigepalya	755.00	18,900/-
4	Ward No. 129, Jnanabharathi	995.00	24,900/-
5	Ward No. 16, Jalahalli, Siddarthnagar	218.00	5,450/-
6	Hosakerehalli Lake in RR Nagar Constituency	900.00	22,500/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal: **14.03.2023 onwards. 2)** Pre-bid meeting : **18.03.2023 at 4.00 p.m. 3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **21.03.2023 upto 4:30 p.m. 4**) Opening of Technical bid: **23.03.2023 at 4:30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, QA / QC Division, RR Nagar Zone.

M BG-BGE

Poor occupancy, hefty haulage charges put the brakes on Golden Chariot

While haulage charges have been reduced by 33% for other trains, the same has not been done for luxury trains

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Sheela Segaram, an NRI from Malaysia, along with three other people - one from Malaysia and two from Australia, had booked a Golden Chariot tour which was supposed to depart on March 12. The group had booked their flights too. However, one week before the scheduled departure date, they received communication from IRCTC that the trip had been cancelled.

"This is not the first time it has happened. My colleagues were supposed to depart on February 19 on the train, but that was also cancelled. This does not look good on Indian tourism," said Ms. Segaram. For one night on the Golden Chariot, passengers have to pay around $750-$1,000.

Post its grand relaunch in November 2022, the luxury train Golden Chariot has taken only one trip.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Post its grand relaunch in November 2022, the luxury train Golden Chariot has taken only one trip. Not just that, passengers have reported that their bookings are being cancelled by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) citing lack of bookings as the reason. The inaugural tour had run on a 46% occupancy.

Sources in IRCTC said that haulage charges were one of the major reasons why the luxury train cannot run without a certain level of occupancy. "This is the challenge of running a luxury train. With hotels, even with 10-20% occupancy, business can still go on as their fixed costs are spent only once. But we have to pay both fixed and variable haulage charges, which are huge amounts. We can let go of the fixed charges, but we have to recover variable haulage charges which is why we need more bookings," they said.

The source said that while haulage charges have been reduced by 33% for other trains under the Bharat Gaurav Trains Policy by the Union government, the same has not been granted for luxury trains resulting in them paying crores of haulage charges. The officials also said that to avoid confusion, travellers and agents are always informed that the tour is subject to cancellation in case of insufficient occupancy.

In December, IRCTC announced special discounts and offers to attract more tourists during the holiday season and yet, there were not enough bookings to run a trip. The officials are hopeful of getting more bookings post October, in the holiday season of 2023-24. "International tourism still has to pick up post the pandemic. The bookings will definitely increase in the next season," they said.

With COVID cases on a slight uptick, TAC recommends standardisation of sewage surveillance methods

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With a slight uptick in COVID cases and hospitalisations in Bengaluru, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended a standardisation of sewage surveillance methods adopted by the multiple agencies involved in the surveillance. It has also recommended bringing all agencies involved in sewage surveillance under one umbrella.

Sewage surveillance is known to help in early identification of any impending wave of COVID-19 and notifying the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV 2, if any, to initiate local public health actions. Multiple agencies - Precision Health, National Institute of Virology (NIV), Benagluru, IDRF, TIGS, - have been involved in sewage surveillance in Karnataka for the last one year.

Up to 40% of the cases are known to be pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic who secrete and excrete the virus that goes into the sewage and is expected to be picked up by the surveillance. However, the results of the surveillance done by different agencies are varying in Bengaluru.

While there has been no presence of SARS-CoV-2 in the sewage samples that were tested by Infectious Disease Research Foundation (the agency working with the health department) in Bengaluru city and Bengaluru International airport in the last four weeks, surveillance done by another agency - Tata Institute of Genetics and Society (TIGS) has shown a consistently high positivity rate for SARS-CoV-2 in the wastewater for weeks including in the last one week (March 6 to March 11).

Sewage surveillance is known to help in early identification of any impending wave of COVID-19 and notifying the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV 2, if any, to initiate local public health actions.
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Under one umbrella

In this context the TAC that met on Sunday has recommended bringing all agencies involved in sewage surveillance under one umbrella. "The test positivity rate is on the rise while there is a fluctuation in daily testing numbers. Sewage surveillance assumes importance in this context. As the various agencies doing sewage surveillance are using different methods, TAC recommends that this needs to be standardised," stated the TAC's report.

"The agencies should adopt uniform testing procedures and the State Health Department should demarcate areas for testing by various agencies in Bengaluru in coordination with the BBMP. This is to avoid any overlap or duplication. Besides, it is recommended that all the agencies should report the surveillance data to a single nodal authority in the State and BBMP," the report said.

Influenza review

The TAC that also reviewed Influenza data from ICMR approved laboratories pointed out that Influenza H3N2 is the predominant sub-type among the samples testing positive for Influenza in India (according to data shared by the Union Health Ministry) since the beginning of this year.

"Majority (50%) of the cases are due to adenovirus, followed by H3N2 (28.6%), H1N1 (10.2%) and others in the country. One H3N2 death has also been reported from Hassan in Karnataka. In this context, TAC recommends surveillance of ILI and SARI as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India and suspected cases in high risk categories such as elderly and those with comorbidities should be admitted and managed as per standard treatment protocol," the report stated. Besides, the TAC has also recommended that the State should procure additional testing kits from the National Institute of Virology, Pune to meet the demand for laboratory testing of Influenza. Awareness about flu vaccination should be intensified through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, the report added.

G20-DIA regional meet to be held today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The G-20-Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA) regional meet and national roadshow is being held in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The G20-DIA has been launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to recognise and support innovators that have digital solutions for global impact.

In this regard, a G20-DIA regional meet and national roadshow is being organised by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) and The GAIN, a startup accelerator to showcase G20-DIA across India and bring together stakeholders such as government officials, international delegates, investors, successful innovators, seasoned entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and others to explore opportunities for global impact.

According to the organisers the highlights of the G20-DIA regional meet and national roadshow are networking with relevant stakeholders, exploration of opportunities to showcase innovators venture at the G20-DIA Grand Summit which will be to be held in August in Bengaluru and explore opportunity to engage with government, national and international stakeholders through upcoming startup programmes. The organisers said that the themes of the G20-DIA regional meet are health-tech, agri-tech, circular economy, sustainability, ed-tech, fin-tech and secured digital infrastructure.

Second batch of 36 OneWeb Satellites set to be launched on March 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is likely to launch the second batch of OneWeb Satellites on March 26.

ISRO will launch 36 satellites belonging to OneWeb, the Low Earth Observation satellite (LEO) communications company which is backed by Bharati Enterprises.

The 36 satellites launched by ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota are the second batch of satellites to be launched from India.

In October last year, 36 OneWeb Gen-1 satellites were launched as part of a commercial agreement between NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) which is ISRO's commercial arm and OneWeb Ltd.

40 satellites

OneWeb on March 9 successfully deployed 40 satellites, which were launched by SpaceX from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

The recent launch was the penultimate mission to complete OneWeb's Gen 1 LEO satellite constellation.

"OneWeb's first-generation (Gen 1) LEO satellite constellation and enable global coverage in 2023. With 582 satellites now in orbit, OneWeb will complete its global footprint of the Gen 1 constellation with a launch scheduled for later this month with ISRO/NSIL," OneWeb said.

"Today's launch is an exciting milestone as we are now just one mission away from completing our Gen 1 constellation, which will activate global service in 2023," Neil Masterson, Chief Executive Officer of OneWeb had said after the successful launch.

Last year, NSIL signed two launch service contracts with Network Access Associated Limited (OneWeb) for launching OneWeb LEO Broadband Communication Satellites on-board LVM3.

NSIL said that this contract with OneWeb is a historic milestone for NSIL and ISRO, as LVM3, is making its entry into the global commercial launch service market.

Six held for robbing BWSSB contractor, staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Baiyappanahalli police arrested a gang of six that robbed a Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) contractor and his employees while they were at work at the railway gate, Kattalipalya, on February 24.

According to the police, the gang was led by Rajadurai Alexander, 30, a rowdy-sheeter having over 17 criminal cases pending against him. The accused was arrested in 2021 under the Goonda Act and after spending one year in prison, he managed to come out and roped in his associates to rob labourers at construction sites.

Assaulted

The accused confronted the contractor Sundar Raman who was supervising the BWSSB work at night, assaulted him and his staff and snatched ₹9,000. The accused even forced Sundar Raman to share the PhonePe pin number to transfer ₹40,000 from his account online. The accused later took two cans of diesel and petrol and escaped in three bikes, said the police.

Based on a complaint, the police tracked down the accused through the mobile number and arrested Rajadurai along with his associates Arun Kumar, 29, Dinesh Antony, 21, Yaseen Ameen, 20, Joseph Johnson, 27, and Karthik Kutty, 22. The police seized the cash, three bikes and fuel cans from the accused.

Bhimashankar Guled, DCP, east division, said that the police will write to the court about his criminal activities after coming out on bail, seeking necessary action. The police are also probing to ascertain the criminal activities of the gang.

Duo robs gold from employees of businessman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused posed as policemen and fled with the bag containing the valuables

Posing as policemen, two conmen robbed 2.2 kg of gold valuables and ₹19,000 cash from employees of a Raichur-based businessman at Anand Rao circle in Majestic where the duo was waiting for the bus to return on Saturday.

The duo, identified as Abdul Razaq and Mallaiah, had come to city from Raichur to buy gold bars. They stayed in a lodge in Gandhinagar for a day before getting their order ready. After getting the valuables, they went to Anand Rao Circle and were waiting for the bus to board when two men posing as policemen confronted them.

The two men accused them of illegal activities and took them in an auto on the pretext of inquiry along with the bags containing the valuables.

After moving for a few yards, they told them to get down and walked towards the DC office before fleeing with the bag containing the valuables worth ₹1.12 crore.

Shocked, the victims informed their employer and based on his advice, approached the station and filed a complaint.

Case registered

The Upparpet police have registered a case of robbery and are verifying the CCTV footage. The police suspect that someone known to the employees are involved.

Lakshman Nimbargi, DCP, west division, said that a special team has been formed to track down the accused.

INBRIEF

Lokayukta takes Prashanth Madal, others into custody

The Lokayukta officials on Monday took Prashanth Kumar M.V. alias Prashanth Madal, son of BJP MLA from Channagiri Madal Virupakshappa, and all the five accused into custody to probe the source of the money found during the raid at the MLA's office on Crescent Road on March 2.

"We have filed three FIRs against the accused and taken them into custody to probe about the money seized during the raid," a senior police officer said. The questioning of the MLA continued, and according to sources, he is not cooperating with the investigation. The Lokayukta officials said they will challenge the anticipatory bail before the High Court on Friday. The Lokayukta is also planning to file a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court to challenge the bail petition as the next course of action.

Childcare institute booked under Juvenile Justice Act

The Jnanabharati police have booked a childcare centre for allegedly violating the Juvenile Justice Act and taking care of minor children without due permission from the authority concerned.

Based on a complaint by Geethalakshmi H.N., member of the district child protection office, the police charged Sai Nele Foundation and its head Sheshaprasad Sharma, charging him under various sections of the JJ Act and wrongful confinement on Friday. The centre is being run by Mr. Sharma in a rented house in Sonnenahalli where around 50 children are being looked after.

The incident came to light when Mr. Sharma started circulating messages on WhatsApp seeking financial help for the food and education of minor children. In her complaint, Ms. Geethalakshmi alleged that the centre has not obtained required permission from the board and was advertising to seek monitory help revealing the details of the children, which is illegal.

Deputy Commissioner moots night tourism in Mysuru

Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra has mooted the idea of promoting night tourism in Mysuru. Participating in an interaction programme with reporters organised by Mysuru District Journalists' Association (MDJA) on Monday, he said most of the places of tourist interest in the city including the zoo close by 5.30-6 p.m.

"There are not many attractions for the tourists in Mysuru at night time", he said while adding that he had also discussed a proposal with the Mysuru palace officials to consider allowing the tourists to enjoy the experience of watching the palace till 10 p.m. at least during weekends, to start with. The same can be experimented with other historical structures also, Mr Rajendra said.

INBRIEF

Media academy awards presented

Karnataka Madhyam Academy awards were presented to journalists from across Karnataka for their contribution to the field of journalism on Monday by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The awards had been announced earlier for four calendar years. Among the award recipients are *The Hindu's* Senior Assistant Editor in Mysuru Shankar Bennur and former Senior Assistant Editor in Ballari M. Ahiraj. A total of 120 journalists received the award.

Five-day agricultural varsities youth festival begins

The 21st All India Inter-Agricultural Universities Youth Festival 2022-23, a five-day event, commenced at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, GKVK campus, on Monday. As many as 57 universities are participating in the festival, which was inaugurated by UAS-B Vice-Chancellor S.V. Suresha. Light vocal, one act play, mime, on-the-spot painting, cartooning extempore, and quiz competitions were held. UAS-B bagged first place in the procession. Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana; Central Agricultural University, Imphal; and Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, West Godavari district, bagged, second, third, and fourth places, said a release.

Govt. to purchase raw silk to arrest fall in price

Sources say that the price of raw silk that was hovering around ₹5,000 a kg and had remained stable in the last two years, has dropped to about ₹3,500 a kg

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of a steep fall in the price of raw silk over the last fortnight, which in turn has affected the farmers, the State government on Monday has decided to intervene in the market and purchase raw silk through Karnataka Silk Marketing Board (KSMB) from Tuesday. Reduced demand and the traders' lobby is said to be behind the fall in raw silk prices.

Reduced demand and the traders' lobby is said to be behind the fall in raw silk prices. FILE PHOTO

Government sources said that the price of raw silk that was hovering around ₹5,000 a kg and had remained stable in the last two years, has dropped to about ₹3,500 a kg. "In turn, with the cost of raw silk coming down, the price of cocoon is seeing a downward trend in the cocoon market. Farmers are already losing about ₹100 a kg of cocoon. The current price of cocoon is about ₹450 a kg," an official in the Sericulture Department told *The Hindu*. Any impact on price in raw silk will impact the farmers, and market intervention is necessary to arrest the further fall of cocoon prices and also help the reelers, sources said.

While Sericulture Minister K.C. Narayanagowda, who chaired a meeting on Monday, announced purchase of raw silk by the government, the price fixing committee that met in the evening decided to ensure a fair price to stabilise the market. The Minister, in a release, said that the silk production had increased by 23%, and that it could be one of the reasons for price decline as produce is flooding the market in the last 15 days.

"We suspect the role of the traders' lobby in reducing the price. Also, we are told that a new type of thread (art silk) that resembles silk yarn from Surat is being made available in Bengaluru. This looks like a silk yarn and is cheaper. Hence, demand for raw silk has also come down. We are checking on this too." Besides, a general trend of reduced demand for silk sarees has also been affecting the demand for raw silk, the official said.

Meanwhile, president of Karnataka Sericulturists Welfare Association Gowtham Gowda also blamed the trader lobby for the current mess.

He said: "The decline in the cost of cocoon by almost 25% has affected the farmers hard. The arrival of cocoons in the market had also reduced."

Mr. Gowtham said that the reelers have not been properly paid by the traders, who cite year end, but also are refusing to increase the demand for raw silk. "The price is fixed based on the demand. Any disruption in the supply chain will reflect in cocoon market."

Ramesh Jarkiholi accuses DKS of using CDs to blackmail Ministers to join Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As rumours of some BJP Ministers trying to switch sides are doing round in political circles with the Aassembly elections approaching, former Minister and BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi has accused KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar of using CDs to blackmail some BJP Ministers in Karnataka in a bid to force them to join the Congress before the elections. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday exuded confidence that none of the Ministers will cow down to such threats.

"Mr. Shivakumar is using CDs about some Ministers to blackmail them into joining the Congress. He is threatening to release those CDs if they do not join the party. This has been going on for some time. One of my friends, who was with me in Mumbai before the defection, is being blackmailed now," he alleged at a meeting of BJP workers in Ankalagi near Gokak in Belagavi district on Sunday. Mr. Jarkiholi resigned from the Karnataka Cabinet soon after a CD became public.

He said: "I suspect Mr. Shivakumar still has some CDs about me. The Congress leader has kept them to be released later as part of a systematic conspiracy against me. How do you fight such enemies?". Mr. Jarkiholi claimed that when his son Amarnath met Mr. Shivakumar, the latter had admitted using the CDs.

The former Minister claimed that he too has some CDs involving Mr. Shivakumar, but would not release them to avoid hurting the women in the Congress leader's family. "Mr. Shivakumar's CD partner is in Belagavi. That person is an actor too. Now, a driver has joined her. The duo think they are very powerful. People should be wary of such leaders," Mr. Jarkiholi said.

Refuses to comment

Mr. Shivakumar refused to comment on the allegations, and said it was baseless. "I will not respond to allegations made by a mentally unstable person."

Petitioners against Isha Yoga Centre have not come to court with clean hands: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that the petitioners had mislead the court by suppressing material facts and not disclosing their criminal antecedents, the High Court of Karnataka dismissed the PIL petition, which has alleged that the State government allowed establishment of Isha Yoga Centre in Chickballapur by violating the provisions of environmental laws.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi made these observations in its recent order of dismissing the petition, filed by Kyathappa S. and three others from Chickballapur.

"The petitioners have not come to the court with clean hands as they have suppressed about the credentials, criminal antecedents...," the Bench said. It noted that the petitioners had made a false statement on oath in their affidavit stating that they are "not involved in civil, criminal and revenue cases" when charge sheets were filed against three petitioners in certain criminal cases registered against them.

"We have not adjudicated the issue involved in this petition. We have dismissed this writ petition only on the ground of suppression of material facts by the petitioners," the Bench said, while pointing out that petitioners' conduct of non-disclosure of criminal antecedents and about PILs filed by them before the court earlier was also violation of the provisions of the High Court of Karnataka (Public Interest Litigation) Rules, 2018. "The petitioners have disregard for the PIL rules framed by this court and are guilty of suppression of material facts," the Bench said.

Centre grants additional flood assistance of ₹941 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Level Committee (HLC) that met under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, has approved additional Central assistance of ₹941.04 crore to poll-bound Karnataka under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) towards damages due to flood, landslips, and cloudburst during 2022.

Karnataka is one of the five States to get such additional Central assistance. An official release said the assistance was over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

It may be noted that the Opposition parties had accused the Centre of releasing only a paltry sum for handling floods as well as landslips and urged the State government to take up the issue with the Centre. The issue had figured in the legislature session held a few weeks ago.

Congress Central Election Committee to meet on March 16, 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Election Committee of the Congress will deliberate and finalise tickets for a number of constituencies in Karnataka on March 16 and 17, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said on Monday.

While the central screening committee is learnt to have sent a list of candidates, it will be finalised by the election committee, sources said. The list of about 120 candidates, including sitting legislators, is likely to be cleared by the election committee. These are constituencies where single candidates have been identified already, sources said.

Over the demand for giving ticket to the son of KPCC working president R. Dhruvanarayan, who passed away recently, Mr. Shivakumar said the family is close to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. "The decision to give ticket to a family member will be decided by Mr. Kharge".

MLA complains of attempts to retrieve his call records

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress campaign committee chairman and Babaleshwar legislator M.B. Patil has complained to the Director-General and Inspector General of Police that there have been attempts to retrieve the call records of his mobile phone as well as his family members and attempts were being made to misuse it.

In a letter, he said that it is learnt that the call history of the phones used by him, his brother and MLC Sunil Gouda Patil, his wife Asha M., son Basanagouda M. Patil, besides the PRO of BLDE institutions Mahantesh Birader is being sought from Kalaburagi, Bagalkote, Belagavi, and other districts.

He urged the police chief to direct the telecom company not to share such data with anyone.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Fond Remembrance

DEEPA KRISHNAN
14 - 03 - 2001

I saw your eyes in the window pane
as I watched the falling rain
It seemed as each rain drop fell
It quietly said your name
I held you close in my heart today
It made me feel complete;
You may have left us - but you are not gone
You will always be part of us
As long as the sun shines
The wind blows
The rain falls
You will live on inside of me forever
For that is all my heart knows

Thinking of you and praying for you.
Be happy and at peace wherever you are
our dearest Deepu
You are forever enshrined in our hearts

Sarala, Krishnan, Rajiv, Divya and Shyam

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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IN THE COURT OF ADDL.DISTRICT JUDGE NO.3:NAGAON (ASSAM).

Summons to Defendants [U/O-5, Rule-20 of C.P.C] MATRIMONIAL (DIVORCE) CASE NO.86/2022

Sri Indrajit Chakraborty .....Petitioner
---Versus---
Smti.Rina Chakraborty .....Respondent

To,
Smti.Rina Chakraborty (Bhattacharjee),
W/o-Sri Indrajit Chakraborty
D/o-Sri Sujit Kumar Bhattacharjee, and Mina Bhattacharjee,
R/o-Mysore City, P.O.-Mysore, Karnataka.
Permanent Resident of:-
Irongmara, Silchar P.O. and P.S. -Silchar,
District - Cachar (Assam), PIN-788011,

Temporary Address of:-
C/o-SMti.Bina Sharma,
W/o- Sri Krishna Sharma,
R/o-Gobindapally,
Near M.E.Assamese School,
Adjacent to Bye-Pass, Lanka,
Ward No.8, P.O. and P.S.-Lanka, District-Jojai (Assam), P.I.N.-782442,

WHEREAS, the petitioner has instituted the above noted suit against you for Dissolution of marriage and cancellation of marriage certificate, you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on 29.03.23 at 10.30 a.m. to answer the same; failing which the suit will be disposed of Ex-parte.
Give under my hand and seal of the Court, that 23rd Day of February/2023

Sd/-
Addl.District Judge No.3
Distrcit: Nagaon: Assam

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F82(8), 82(15) & 82(4)/22-23/14610-11 Date: 13.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-Procurement Mode)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry no: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/ EE(O)/AE/21-22/EPR-19/CALL-9 Dt:27.12.2021** & **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/22-23/EPR-23&25/call-5 Dated: 22.08.2022** for the work of **"Providing intermediate towers to 66kV EHT lines passing over Govt schools and colleges at 2 locations and 3 hazardous locations (HTLS work) pertaining to TLM sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar in TL&SS Division, SRS Peenya"** coming under jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **14.03.2023.**

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ (North) Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ. ತಾ:: ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಜಿ: ಧಾರವಾಡ 580023.
e-mail :- knnl@knnlindia.com ಫೋನ್ :0836-2315225 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:2315226.
Website:- www.knnlindia.com e-mail :-eemrbcc3byt@gmail.com
GSTIN:-29AABCK6647B1ZK

ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–1/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2022–23/3202 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10/03/2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ **ಸಂ.3**, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ **4701 SCP** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂಬರಿನ **1** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Work Indent No :- 35827 (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.25.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:– ರೂ.50,000/–

ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21/03/2023 ರ 4.00 pm** ತನಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23/03/2023** ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ: **11.00 am** ರಿಂದ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖೇನ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2315225 ನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾ/1250/2022–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001, Karnataka, INDIA.
Ph: 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112, Fax: 080-2558 6321
Email: ho@kspcb.gov.in Website: www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
NO.PCB/310/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/8335 Date: 13-03-2023

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Prakash Sponge Iron & Power Pvt. Ltd., has proposed to expand the existing Steel Plant from its current capacity of 0.2 MTPA to 1.0 MTPA finished Steel products such as establishment of new Iron Ore Beneficiation unit (16,10,000 TPA) , new Iron ore Pellet Plant (14,00,000 TPA), new Coal Gasifier (30,000 Nm3/hr), Expansion of Sponge Iron production through DRI kilns from 90,000 TPA to 11,17,800 TPA, Expansion of Hot Billets/Slabs production by installing 2 x 40 T Induction Furnaces (Hot Metal: 3,31,200 TPA) to enhance billet production from 1,29,600 TPA to 4,80,240 TPA and 1 x 40T Electric Arc Furnace (Hot Metal:3,03,600 TPA) to enhance total steel production from the current level of 0.2 MTPA to 1.0 MTPA along with LRF, establishment of vaccum Degassing unit 3,20,160 TPA, De-phosphorisation Converter-1,51,200 TPA, Rolling Mills-Long Products (expansion of TMT bars production from 1,00,000 TPA to 2,20,000 TPA), new Wire Rod Mill (3,60,000 TPA) & new Wire Products unit (42,000 TPA), Rolling Mills-Flat Products (new Strip Mill (3,20,160 TPA), new GC/GA Unit (30,000 TPA), new Saw Pipes unit (1,80,000 TPA) & new Cold Rolled Products (30,000 TPA)and sale of excess strips (80,000TPA) and establishment of WHRB based Power Plant of 73.1 MW, FBC based Power Plant of 37.0 MW, new Submerged Electric Arc Furnaces (2 x 11 MVA) to produce Ferro Alloys (FeSi-18,600 TPA/SiMn-38,400 TPA/FeMn-67,200 TPA/FeCr-40,000 TPA), new Oxygen Plant (12,000 m^3/day), new Briquetting Plant (244 kg/Hr), Brick Manufacturing Unit (64,000 bricks/day) and Slag Granulation unit of 25 TPH. Existing plant is located in 68.08 Hectares (168.225 Acres) of land and additional land for proposed expansion is 134.72 Hectares (332.775 Acres). Total land area is 202.83 Hectares (501 Acres) (202.83 Ha.) at various survey numbers of Heggere & Kaparahalli Villages, Challakere Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.

As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated:01.12.2009, the project Proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) letter F. No.J-11011/325/2010-IA.II(I) dated:31.08.2022 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, request letter of the project proponent dated:24.01.2023and Regional Officer, Chitradurga letter dated:27.02.2023 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address : M/s. Prakash Sponge Iron and Power Pvt. Ltd., "ERM House" No.4006, KR Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070.

2. Location of the proposed project : Heggere & Kaparahalli Villages, Challiakere Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.

3. Details of proposed project : Proposed for Expansion of Steel Plant from its current capacity of 0.2 MTPA to 1.0 MTPA. (Plant configuration & production capacities are mentioned above).

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing : Date: 12.04.2023 (Wednesday) Time: 11.00 AM Place: Proposed project area of M/s. Prakash Sponge Iron and Power Pvt. Ltd.,Heggere & Kaparahalli Village, Challakere Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are : (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga. (c) District Industries Centre, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga. (d) Tahsildar Office, Challikere Taluk. (e) Village Panchayath Office, Sannikere, Challikere Taluk, Chitradurga District. (f) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Chitradurga. (a) SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001. (g) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.gov.in**

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

AVOID USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS, BE ECO-FRIENDLY

Country roars for *RRR* as *Naatu Naatu* wins an Oscar

Describing the win as exceptional, Modi congratulates the entire team for the global honour; A.P. CM among political leaders who joined the Telugu film industry in hailing the winners

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, other national leaders, and members of the Telugu film industry on Monday congratulated team *RRR* for the win at Oscar 2023.

Twitter was on fire with various trends on Monday morning as the nation woke up to the twin victories of *The Elephant Whisperers,* which won the Oscar for the best documentary short, and *Naatu Naatu* from *RRR*, which won for the best original song.

Mr. Modi joined in the celebrations by sharing:

Proud moment: A performance of the song *Naatu Naatu* from *RRR* at the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles. AP

"Exceptional! The popularity of 'Naatu Naatu' is global. It will be a song that will be remembered for years to come. Congratulations to @mmkeeravaan, @boselyricist and the entire team for this prestigious honour."

"I join a Billion Indians in celebrating the Honour for #NaatuNaatu and #RRR Kudos to @mmkeeravaani and @boselyricist on making history. The man of the moment, brilliant storyteller who has made India proud @ssrajamouli. Both my brothers, the superstars..." Telangana IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao said in a tweet.

Celebrating the win, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy said in a tweet: "The #Telugu flag is flying higher! I'm filled with pride on a Telugu song, that so beautifully celebrates our folk heritage, being given its due recognition internationally today."

Actor Mahesh Babu said: "And there you go... NAATU NAATU!! Crossing all boundaries!! A jubilant moment for Indian cinema".

7 WINS FOR SCI-FI FILM
» PAGE 11

Chandrabose's lyrics elevate the raw, rustic nature of the song

S.B. Vijaya Mary

Standing next to M.M. Keeravani, who had just finished rendering his version of The Carpenters' *Top of the World* to a cheering audience, lyricist Chandrabose, the co-winner of the Academy Award, could barely manage a *Namaste* – an overwhelming moment for someone who usually holds forth with free-flowing articulation.

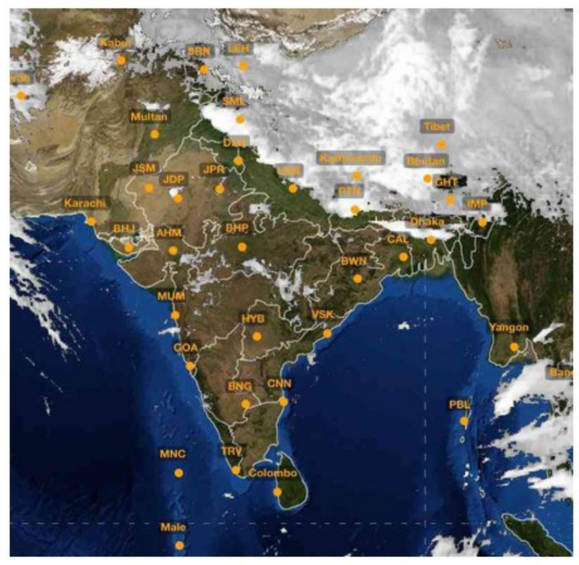
A song that was created during a car drive in Hyderabad, Mr. Chandrabose struck upon the words *Naatu Naatu* while returning from a briefing by Mr. Keeravani. Two stars, known for their dancing skills, were to synchronise their steps to lines that should not be critical of anyone, not even the British colonisers, but showcase their native prowess and strengths. The Telugu word *naatu* means 'rustic or raw' and 'to sow', unlike the Hindi version of the song, which uses the term '*naacho*', which means 'dance'.

For the song, Mr. Chandrabose had to keep in mind the rural lifestyle of the Telangana and Andhra regions. The words rolled, bringing alive the rustic rawness of the native people, their culture, poverty, and their strengths.

After a 19-month-long fine-tuning process, *Naatu Naatu* was released to overwhelming success. Steeped in native lifestyles, Mr. Chandrabose's lyrics are woven into the narrative, a flair that brings fresh sensibilities to the fore.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds/ hail likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and south Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.8	17.2	Kozhikode	—	35.8	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	37.2	20.6	Kurnool	—	38.4	19.8
Aizawl	—	34.5	11.6	Lucknow	—	32.6	17.7
Allahabad	—	34.8	17.2	Madurai	—	35.8	23.1
Bengaluru	—	32.9	19.2	Mangaluru	—	34.3	24.0
Bhopal	—	—	—	Mumbai	—	37.4	24.6
Bhubaneswar	—	38.2	20.2	Mysuru	—	33.2	16.9
Chandigarh	—	31.9	17.2	New Delhi	—	33.4	17.1
Chennai	—	34.5	23.6	Patna	—	34.1	18.6
Coimbatore	—	34.8	21.6	Port Blair	—	31.7	26.2
Dehradun	—	29.4	16.2	Puducherry	—	34.0	21.8
Gangtok	—	20.1	11.4	Pune	—	34.9	20.1
Goa	—	35.0	22.2	Raipur	—	37.0	21.5
Guwahati	—	34.2	17.0	Ranchi	—	33.8	18.2
Hubballi	—	36.0	19.0	Shillong	—	24.6	13.1
Hyderabad	—	34.6	19.1	Shimla	—	20.4	10.4
Imphal	—	31.9	13.7	Srinagar	0.6	21.0	5.8
Jaipur	—	34.2	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.0	25.7
Kochi	—	32.4	26.2	Tiruchi	—	35.1	23.6
Kohima	—	23.4	10.4	Vijayawada	—	34.0	21.4
Kolkata	—	35.4	21.7	Visakhapatnam	—	34.5	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..	..	.18	...268	...232	
Bengaluru	...3	..46	.23	82	...101	
Chennai	.22	..32	.68	...114	91	
Delhi	.27	..91	.34	...332	...274	
Hyderabad	.10	5	.61	76	95	
Kolkata	.12	..57	.76	...160	...132	
Lucknow	.16	..72	.87	...220	...173	
Mumbai	.83	288	107	...227	...191	
Pune	.97	138	114	...240	...144	
Visakhapatnam	.19	..72	.46	...175	...190	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bettiah, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Far from glamour, the elephant whisperers move on

Rohan Premkumar
P.V. Srividya
CHENNAI

After the Oscar for best documentary short was announced for *The Elephant Whisperers* in far away Los Angeles, director Kartiki Gonsalves thanked Bomman and Bellie for sharing their tribal vision, which helped her make the movie – a moment of glory for the Kattunayakar tribe of the Western Ghats and their traditional wisdom.

The documentary revolves around a family that adopts two orphan baby elephants in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, and rears them. The two human protagonists of the film, mentioned on the world stage – Mr. Bomman and Ms. Bellie – however, have moved on from the Theppakadu sanctuary.

Mr. Bomman is now taking care of two elephant calves in Dharmapuri, also in western Tamil Nadu, orphaned when the mothers were electrocuted by illegal electrical fencing of a farm there, quite like the elephant Raghu in the documentary. Unlike him, his wife, Ms. Bellie, is not a permanent staff of the Forest Department, so she no longer takes care of the elephants she helped raise.

Mr. Bomman was inside the Palacodde forest in Dharmapuri on a mission to track the two elephant calves (on the orders of the Madras High Court) and unite them with a herd or shift them to the safety of the Theppakadu elephant camp in Mudumalai in the Nilgiris district.

Bomman says he heard about the award on WhatsApp. "What can I say, I want to thank the two elephant calves and Kartiki.

Bomman

What else do I know?" he said. *The Elephant Whisperers* opens to the curly mane framing Mr. Bomman's profile, with him declaring himself as *Kattunayakkan* (king of the forests).

"We have to find them [the elephant calves]. I'm worried about the little one," Mr. Bomman said, his worry reminding us of the loving way in which he chided Raghu in the documentary for losing his bell in the river, the bell that would lead Mr. Bomman to his elephant-son, in case he is lost in the forest. "How will I find you if you lose your bell," he asks Raghu. Ms. Bellie is worried too, albeit for a different reason. She had a tearful union with the two calves in the film – Raghu and Bommie – after the announcement of the award.

While she is happy that on the one hand the elephants she raised are the focus of international attention, she added, tearfully: "How can I be fully happy when my elephants are no longer with me?"

Ms. Bellie says that she feels sorry for Bommie, the younger elephant. "Raghu is a boy. He will somehow make it on his own, but Bommie... poor thing, she's still so young and deserves the best of care," she said.

INBRIEF

Polls to eight MLC seats held peacefully in Andhra Pradesh

The elections to three local authorities, three Graduates constituencies and two Teachers constituencies of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council ended on Monday evening. A large number of police personnel were deployed at the polling stations to ensure peace, and there were no major issues that disrupted the elections. Polling was conducted at 1,535 stations spread across 20 districts, of which 125 were classified as hyper-sensitive, but the polling was by and large peaceful.

Seven arrested for leaking Telangana PSC exam papers

The Central Zone Task Force team, along with the Begum Bazar Police, nabbed a gang of seven, including the mastermind – an Assistant Section Officer in the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC)– for leaking the question paper for exams conducted by the commission. It also seized the devices used by them. The gang included network admin of TSPSC and a constable from the Medchal Police of Cyberabad Commissionerate, the police said. They added that the seized devices will be examined to find if they had leaked any more vital information.

'Govt. will not hesitate to shut down Margadarsi operations'

Inspector-General of Registration and Stamps Department V. Ramakrishna has said that many irregularities have been noticed in the Margadarsi Chit Fund Private Limited, and the government will not hesitate to order the company to wind up its operations for "flouting the norms". During the searches, the Registration and Stamps Department had detected that the money of the subscribers was diverted to other States and firms in "blatant violation of the rules", he said. "After the raids, many customers have complained about the irregularities," ADGP (CID) N. Sanjay said.

SC asks CBI not to continue probe into charges that BJP conspired to poach BRS MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to hold its investigation into allegations that the BJP conspired to poach Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) legislators in Telangana.

"The investigation is not to be continued while the matter is sub judice or it will become infructuous. That is the thumb rule," a Bench said.

The Telangana government has argued in the Supreme Court that transferring the case to the CBI would prove ineffective as it was "controlled by the BJP". The State had on November 9 ordered the setting up of a seven-member Special Investigation Team to probe the alleged attempt to poach MLAs. The High Court subsequently transferred the case from the SIT to the CBI.

The court said the probe is not to be continued while the matter is sub judice or it will become infructuous.

Three people – Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nandu Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy – were already named as accused in the case after a complaint was lodged by BRS MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy, among four legislators, against them on October 26. They were arrested for allegedly trying to lure the BRS MLAs to join the BJP. Recently, they were given bail by the High Court.

Malankara row: Orthodox church accuses govt. of scuttling peace with new Bill

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church has accused the Kerala government of attempting to scuttle the "peaceful atmosphere" brought about by the Supreme Court rule of 2017 in its dispute with the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church. The move to introduce a Bill aimed at settling the Malankara Church dispute is also bound to undermine its Constitution of 1934, it alleged.

Inaugurating a fast and prayer protest at the St. George Orthodox Syrian Cathedral at Palayam on Monday, Metropolitan Kuriakose Mar Clemis of the Thumpamon diocese said such efforts being made for political gains would never bear fruit.

Hunger strike: Metropolitans of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church presenting a resolution against the proposed Bill. S. MAHINSHA

Malankara Association secretary Biju Oommen moved a resolution urging the government to refrain from measures that could pave the way for more litigation in the dispute.

NGT-appointed committee holds Kochi Corporation responsible for fire incidents

G. Krishnakumar
KOCHI

The State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) on Solid Waste Management appointed by the National Green Tribunal has held the Kochi Corporation responsible for all the fire incidents at the Brahmapuram dump site.

In his report on the massive fire that broke out at the site on March 2, A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, chairman of the SLMC and former judge of the Kerala High Court, said that the civic body had failed to abide by the environmental laws, the orders of the tribunal as well as the repeated directions issued by the SLMC to rectify the serious shortcomings at the dump site.

Fire force personnel spreading out heaps of garbage using an excavator and spraying water to quell the smoke in Kochi. FILE PHOTO

"After every incident there is much hue and cry from various corners, which will gradually subside within a week. It appears that the Kochi city Corporation is confident that nothing will happen thereafter. Fire incidents are likely to occur again, unless the existing legacy waste in the yard is cleared on a war footing and proper scientific methods are adopted for future," according to the report.

'No progress'

The SLMC chairman, who visited the site on March 6, said in his report that there was no considerable progress in the process of biomining undertaken by an independent service provider.

It remains doubtful whether they had set up adequate fire-fighting mechanism at the yard. The entries made in the log books kept at the entrance for recording the quantity of biodegradable and plastic waste were illegible and lacked details. The report said that there was no permanent fire-fighting devices at the site.

It said that there was no significant change in the general condition of the yard. If the bio-mining process is going at this pace, it is not likely to be completed in the near future and it will invite dangers like the fire incidents occurred hitherto, it said.

State govt. shielding contractors who set waste on fire: UDF

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition unleashed a fiery attack on the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the Kerala Assembly on Monday.

It alleged that the government was "shielding politically influential contractors who heartlessly jeopardised the health of an estimated eight lakh Kochi residents by setting fire to the plastic garbage hill at Brahmapuram to cover up their profit-motivated and calculated delinquency to dispose of the toxic legacy waste scientifically".

Chaos erupted when Congress legislator T.J. Vinod introduced a Rule 50 motion seeking the leave of the House for an adjournment debate to discuss the public health fall out due to the dump yard fires.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan dared the government to order a CBI probe into the "man-made fire" in Kochi.

Local Self-Government Institutions Minister M.B. Rajesh claimed the New York fire department had commended the State's firefighting efforts and rejected the Opposition's "portrayal" of Kochi as a blighted city.

The UDF staged a walkout from the Assembly. Kerala Speaker A.N. Shamsheer denied the adjournment motion.

A fragile momentum

Industrial output gains in January remain uneven and may not sustain

On the face of it, the 5.2% uptick in India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) this January is a good new year tiding for a metric that had seen two months of contraction in the previous five months. With the Gross-Value Added (GVA) in the economy by the manufacturing sector shrinking 3.6% in the July to September 2022 and 1.1% in the October to December 2022 quarters, one would hope that the final quarter of this financial year bucks this trend. To that end, January's factory output numbers offer moderate, although not necessarily adequate, encouragement. For one, the rise is almost twice the insipid 2.6% growth averaged in the previous quarter and marks a 4.7% improvement from output levels in December 2022. Double-digit growth in electricity and capital goods lifted the IIP, aided by a 9.6% rise in primary goods and an 8%-odd rise in mining and infrastructure goods (a three-month low for both). Manufacturing rose 3.7%, which is slightly better than December's 3.1% increase, but 10 of 23 tracked sub-sectors recorded contractions in output and five of those slipped more than 10% from January 2022 levels. Textiles factories pared production by over 11%, wood products fell by 12.6%, wearing apparel units slashed output by 22.3%, while computers and electronics manufacturing fell 29.6%. As many as seven sectors have clocked output declines over the first 10 months of 2022-23, including electrical equipment, computers, pharma and the employment-intensive textiles, apparel and leather.

Weakening global demand is surely hurting factory order books and the increasingly hawkish monetary policy outlook in critical markets for Indian exporters such as the United State, do not augur well. On Friday, when the IIP numbers were released, global oil prices fell by another 1.3% as markets expect rate hikes by central banks will hurt demand (and export orders). Of equal concern for the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) members, when they meet in early April, would be how domestic demand is holding up. Two MPC members had already flagged concerns about interest rates turning too high for comfort at its February meeting – one termed India's growth as 'extremely fragile'. The signals from consumer goods production numbers in January's IIP are not too enthusing. While consumer durables output shrank sharply year-on-year for the second successive month, it was almost 15% below pre-COVID levels. Non-durable consumption items grew 6.2%, the slowest pace in three months, with total output this year still below 2021-22 levels. A K-shaped recovery may be officially denied, but industry is pointing to a slower rebound in lower income and rural segments. All is still not well.

True colours

The Oscars served as a marker of America's nod to inclusivity

India woke up at dawn on Monday to watch the 95th Academy Awards held at Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, and cheer the two wins. Director Kartiki Gonsalves' Tamil documentary *The Elephant Whisperers* became the first ever Indian production to win the Oscar for Best Documentary Short. Director S.S. Rajamouli's Telugu film *RRR* became the first Indian feature production to win an Oscar when its catchy '*Naatu Naatu*' won for Best Original Song (music composer M.M. Keeravani and lyricist Chandrabose). Amid this cheer, however, director Shaunak Sen's *All That Breathes* lost the Best Documentary Feature to director Daniel Roher's *Navalny*. *RRR*'s win is significant in the context of India's last wins at the Oscars in 2009, from the British production, *Slumdog Millionaire* – Best Original Song and Score for music composer A.R. Rahman and lyricist Gulzar's '*Jai Ho*', and Resul Pookutty for Best Sound Mixing. While this Danny Boyle film can be described as a western world's interpretation of Indian cinema's song, dance and mainstream *masala*, *RRR* is an Indian mainstream production that is unapologetic about its spectacle action pieces and dance numbers. The '*Naatu Naatu*' win can be viewed as the Academy's nod to cinema that captured the imagination of a multicultural American society.

The awards have again brought to the fore the debate whether the Oscars are 'too White', particularly with the nomination of Andrea Riseborough in the Best Actress category for *To Leslie*, widely criticised for snubbing potential names such as Viola Davis for *The Woman King* and Danielle Deadwyler for *Till*, and forcing the Academy to probe whether she had secured the nod due to aggressive campaigning from her Hollywood peers. The silver lining of inclusivity came in the form of *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (the story of an immigrant Chinese family), securing 11 nominations and winning seven awards. Its top prizes included Best Picture and Best Director, and an award for Vietnamese-American Ke Huy Quan in the Best Supporting Actor category. Its lead actress Michelle Yeoh became the first Asian woman to receive a nomination and win in the Best Actress category. It is also the first Best Actress win for a non-white actress in 20 years. Cheers greeted the 60-year-old when she urged women not to let anyone ever tell them that they are past their prime. The other non-white film to make its presence felt through nominations and its win for Best Costume Design was *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. In the years ahead, these multicultural wins should pave the way for more artistes to take to the global stage.

A chance for India to shape a data governance regime

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In recent years, India has made great strides in its digital strategies and data governance. India has embraced technology and digitalisation to drive economic growth and to improve the lives of its citizens. However, as the country continues to evolve, it must also ensure that its digital strategies and data governance are inclusive, transparent, secure, and conducive to sustainable development.

India's G-20 presidency has provided an opportunity for the country to showcase its advancements in the digital arena, particularly with regards to data infrastructures and data governance. As the world becomes increasingly digital, the G-20 has recognised the need for international cooperation and collaboration in addressing the challenges, opportunities and risks posed by the rapid growth of data and digital technologies.

Significant progress has been made in the use of digital technologies to provide access to bank accounts and in the promotion of digital transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and other options.

DEPA and related concerns

The launch of India's Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA), a consent management tool, has generated both excitement and concern among stakeholders. On the one hand, DEPA has the potential to improve data protection and privacy for citizens by giving them greater control over the use and sharing of their personal information. By allowing individuals to easily manage and control their data consents, DEPA could help to build trust in digital technologies and data governance. However, there are also risks associated with DEPA, particularly in terms of security and privacy. If the consent management tool is not properly implemented or managed, there is a risk that personal information could be misused or misappropriated.

Additionally, there are concerns that the implementation of DEPA may be inconsistent across different sectors and jurisdictions, which could undermine its effectiveness and create confusion among citizens. In order to realise the potential benefits of DEPA and minimise the risks, it is important that the tool is implemented in a transparent, consistent, and secure manner. This will require close collaboration between the government, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders and the development of clear and effective regulations and standards.

While the advances in financial inclusion and the successful implementation of the UPI in India are commendable, it remains to be seen whether these advancements can be replicated successfully in other areas such as health and agriculture. The use of digital technologies can enhance access to health-care services, particularly in rural and remote areas, while in agriculture they can empower farmers and enhance their incomes.

> The crafting of the country's data governance must enable a secure, more egalitarian, and trustworthy digital future for all

However, there are concerns that relate to security and privacy on the one hand and on infrastructure, connectivity and the availability of a skilled human workforce on the other hand. Moreover, there are also concerns around the potential misuse of data and information in these sectors. For example, in the health sector, there is a risk that sensitive medical information could be misused or exploited for commercial purposes, while in agriculture, there is a risk that market information could be manipulated for the benefit of certain actors.

Another issue is that of ownership and governance of data generated and collected in health and agriculture. What are the rights of data providers? And what are the responsibilities towards them? The state has to play a key role in addressing and resolving such issues. Obviously data governance has to be a process in evolution that is agile and responsible. But it has to be built upon fundamental rights, values and norms and on regulations that balance the interests of all stakeholders. These concerns must be addressed through strong and robust data protection regulations, the development of ethical and responsible data governance practices, as well as effective and accountable oversight mechanisms.

The issue of data sovereignty

Data sovereignty has become an increasingly important issue. The term "data sovereignty" refers to the principle that a country has the right to control the collection, storage, and use of data within its borders and also to the informational self-determination of citizens over their data.

India's establishment of an India Data Management Office (IDMO) is a step forward in the country's journey towards data sharing and data governance. The IDMO is expected to oversee and coordinate the implementation of India's digital strategies and data governance framework, and to ensure that these efforts are aligned with the country's values and priorities. It will also work to promote the development and implementation of open-source solutions, which will help to ensure that underlying data architectures are a social public good, and to promote digital technologies to become accessible and affordable for all. Again, this is a great opportunity for India to develop solutions that can be adopted and adapted in other countries. Open source and open innovation models can be important alternatives to proprietary solutions that are governed by big tech companies.

In this context, many commentators have called for the opening of data "silos" to capture the potential wealth of data sharing between governmental offices, corporations and citizens. While opening up some data silos may be useful in promoting citizen participation and increasing access to information, others may jeopardise trust and security.

Find a middle way

For example, the sharing of sensitive personal or financial information may be harmful to individuals and society as a whole, as it may lead to discrimination, exclusion, and unforeseen negative consequences. Therefore, it is important for India to navigate a middle way between restrictive data sovereignty and limitless data flow, and define which data, for which purposes, can be shared and used by whom.

In doing so, India must respect and protect the fundamental right to privacy with a robust data protection law, and balance the interests of all stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and citizens for the goal of sustainable development.

This requires the development of clear, transparent and accountable data governance policies and regulations as well as investment in the necessary digital infrastructure and skills to ensure that data is collected, stored, and used in a responsible, secure and accountable manner – so that a resilient data governance regime can be accomplished.

In conclusion, while the advancements in financial inclusion and UPI hold promise for transfer of *inter alia* data to other parts of the India Stack (for instance in health and agriculture) there are also valid sceptical notes that must be taken into account. (India Stack is a unified software platform that provides digital public goods, application interfaces and facilitates digital inclusion.) The challenges of digital infrastructure, privacy protection, data security, and responsible data governance must be addressed before these advancements can be fully realised in other sectors.

Further, it is essential that the India Stack is designed and implemented in a way that is consistent with India's broader development strategies. This will help to ensure that the data governance is aligned with the country's values and priorities, and that it supports, rather than undermines, the development of a secure, more egalitarian, and trustworthy digital future for all. In this, India has a unique opportunity to develop and implement a data governance regime that can become a model for other countries.

The views expressed are personal

A resilient India, but growth pangs for China

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The Chinese government (in the last government report of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang before he stepped down, and in the backdrop of the reopening of the country after three years of zero-COVID-19 policies) has disappointed observers with the projection of a growth target of around 5% in 2023, which is lower than that of last year (5.5%) and even lower than the expected GDP growth for India in 2023 (6.1% according to the International Monetary Fund). This is all the more surprising if one considers that India is benefiting from the positive impact of the country reopening after COVID-19 lockdowns while China should benefit from its reopening only this year. Still, growth will remain rather meagre for a simple reason: the Chinese economy is in a process of structural deceleration while India is still enjoying its benefits of its demographic dividend.

On sustainable growth

It is clear that Mr. Li was being cautious about the growth target this year. But why? First, the Chinese government, especially the new Premier Li Qiang, does not want to run the risk of undershooting its growth target again, as it happened in 2022. Even if consumption is recovering, external demand remains weak and it is hard to know whether private investment will indeed rise given the doubts about the role of the private sector in the Chinese economy as well as increasingly cautious sentiment being expressed by foreign investors. Further, the real estate sector is still dragging down growth.

Beyond 2023, the government's push for a structural shift of the Chinese economy is still on the way. Over the last few years, tighter regulatory measures have been introduced to contain financial risks and achieve more social objectives such as a green economy, food security, etc. This is an important signal by the Chinese government, recognising that too high a growth is no longer possible nor desirable as it only aggravates financial imbalances. In fact, sustainable growth has become a key concept in China's new economic narrative. It is hard to tell if this relates to the government's firm belief that the quality of growth is what matters the most for Chinese citizens today, or an expression of the recognition that pushing growth up too much is only going to create additional imbalances.

> The Chinese economy could be facing structural deceleration while India enjoys the benefits of its demographic dividend

Job creation and foreign investment

Against such a backdrop, job security is one of the most important objectives of the sustainable growth narrative, which is enshrined in a higher target for new jobs (12 million), compared to what it was in the last past years (11 million, except for the even lower target in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic in China). The revision of the employment target reflects the government's concern about the job market, especially young workers (the unemployment rate reached almost 20% in spring 2022).

The need for jobs explains China's recent charm offensive to retain foreign direct investment in China as it is an important source of job creation. The sentiment for supply chain diversification is not going to help China fulfil the employment objective as investors are looking at new pastures, with India likely to be a major beneficiary. India also needs to create as many jobs as possible (at least 13 million a year, which is more than China's target). Foreign investors are beginning to contribute more substantially to job creation in India, which given the country's sheer size in terms of market size and labour force could pose challenges for China as it tries to hold on to foreign direct investment within the country. The forces pushing foreign investors out of China are in plenty: from containment by the United States at the highest end of the value chain, which is forcing bifurcation, to higher wages at the lowest end. In addition, China's push for self-reliance is certainly not helping with the future plans that foreign investors have in mind for China.

All in all, the 5% growth target is consistent with the current challenges that the Chinese economy faces as well as the government's more diversified objectives beyond economic growth. Creating more jobs is a quintessential part of China's new sustainable growth narrative, but China is confronted with more competition than before, especially from India because of its market size and the large labour pool.

While India and China may not be too different in size and population, growth prospects differ substantially. At the National People's Congress, Premier Li had to lower the GDP target further; in contrast, India remains resilient. An acceleration of this pattern is to be expected in the next few years, especially if the reshuffling of the value chain continues, pushed by geopolitics and high costs in China.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oscar wins

The Oscar wins for India and Indian cinema is elating news. Hopefully, this is the beginning of a new era for Indian cinema and one that will set the benchmark to reshape the landscape of film production.

Bishal Kumar Saha,
Murshidabad, West Bengal

While I was pleased to see *The Elephant Whisperers* win an Oscar, I was disappointed to see the *RRR* song also win. In my opinion, *The Elephant Whisperers* is a remarkable film that beautifully highlighted the strong bond between humans and animals. The film's message was inspiring and it shed light on the importance of treating animals with respect and kindness. The cinematography was top-notch and the film deserved the recognition it received. On the other hand though '*Nattu Nattu*' may have been visually impressive, I believe that a song should be judged on more than just by its visual effects. In my opinion, the song lacked the heart and soul that *The Elephant Whisperers* possessed. I believe that the Academy Awards should recognise things that make an impact and have a lasting impression. *The Elephant Whisperers* did just that and I hope to see more films like it in the future.

Lalgudi Muralidharan,
Lalgudi, Tamil Nadu

Centre's views

Same sex marriage is an uphill battle. Considering the complex nature of Indian society, enabling this may further aggravate discrimination based on orientation, perhaps defeating the purpose of the 2018 judgment.

Manas Agarwal,
New Delhi

For the LGBTQ community to take a step forward by asking for same sex marriage to be legalised requires brainstorming by legal experts and parliamentarians. As a first step, why not marginalised communities be given representation in Parliament and legislatures under a nominated quota? Their voice can be heard on sensitive issues.

T. Kailash Ditya,
Hyderabad

The Centre's view that same-sex union can rock age-old values is unkind and regressive (Page 1, March 13). Vivekananda's sage advice on the direction India's social rebuilding must take is worth remembering. Does the Centre claim to understand Indian culture better than Vivekananda did?

G.L. Krishna,
Bengaluru

View on matches

Either India or Australia will be crowned the champions of the world Test championship after the Oval Test in June this year. But beyond the barriers of points and statistics, New Zealand has established itself as the best entertainer and as the master of close matches that make Test matches most exciting such as the one against the marauding English team and also against Sri Lanka on a rain-affected day. Numbers and statistics matter much in cricket but are curiously silent on some thrillers.

Sanath Kumar T.S.,
Thrissur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

A reality check for foreign universities

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While some have rejected the government's initiative to set up foreign universities in India calling it a predatory practice, others have embraced it as a quality-enhancing step. Missing from the conversation are the economic aspects. It appears that the assumptions that the Indian education market is attractive and would lead to relatively affordable, high-quality education are taken for granted. Ground realities compel a reassessment.

The OECD's global study on the internationalisation of higher education pointed out that "no matter how altruistic and enlightened the motivation, financial aspects of setting up an off-shore campus are likely to prevail." Though this observation was made more than 10 years ago, nothing has changed since then to reconsider this deal-breaker.

Two promising numbers drive the government's assumptions. First, as the Ministry of Education recently clarified in Parliament, the number of Indian students going abroad increased from 4.4 lakh in 2021 to 7.5 lakh in 2022. The related outward remittance spent on education in 2012-2022 was about $5.1 billion, as per the Reserve Bank of India bulletin. The calculation is that India is an enticing market even if foreign universities can tap into a fraction of this outward flow.

Other reinforcing data are the enrolment figures. The All-India Survey on Higher Education estimates that 4.13 crore students are enrolled in higher education. If the policy target is to achieve a 50% enrolment ratio by 2035 from the current 27.3%, the intake of students will almost double in 15 years. Much of this is expected to happen in private institutions, which currently accommodate only about a quarter of enrolment.

Fees and cost

Numbers appear good on paper, but how will they play out on the ground? One way to find out is to ask how foreign universities will position themselves in terms of fees and cost. If foreign universities want to compete with premier Indian institutes such as the IITs, they will have to bear in mind the actual costs this involves. For instance, IIT Madras, based on data filed with the National Institutional Ranking Framework, has about 7,000 students with an annual operating expenditure of ₹1,032 core (2020-21). The fees only partially meets this expense. Government support enables the institution to charge fees as low as ₹2 lakh yearly for its core programmes. If IIT had adopted an entirely fee-based model, it would charge at least ₹14 lakh a year to recover its operational costs. This is the baseline figure that foreign universities will have to bear in mind.

Furthermore, they have to offer services on par with what they offer at home – one of the key conditions of the University Grants Commission and a necessity for branding. In that case, they must bring in foreign faculty and invest significant capital. With this, if one factors in the rate of return, the fees, on a conservative estimate, would be around ₹20 lakh. Although this is less than what they would charge at home, how does this compare locally?

The local market is fragmented. Universities such as Shiv Nadar and Azim Premji, which are backed by philanthropic institutions, have managed to keep the annual tuition fees for four-year undergraduate courses low (around ₹1.6 lakh for humanities and sciences and ₹4 lakh for professional courses). Institutes such as the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) take the volume route and charge a mid-level fee. Others such as Ashoka University or Krea University follow the niche route and charge a relatively high fee. With about 38,000 students, VIT charges about ₹4.95 lakh (merit-based concessions offered), and Ashoka University, with about 2,800 students, charges ₹9.2 lakh for liberal arts education. In this landscape, foreign universities could position themselves as premier institutions and compete with elite private institutes.

Creating a premium

Higher fees need not be a major barrier if institutes can create a premium for students. Recruiters should be willing to pay enhanced entry-level remuneration, which may offset higher education costs. The IITs and IIMs offer two different models. The IIT success mantra is low fees and a high premium. For example, IIT Madras had 90% placement for its four-year undergraduate programme (2020-21). It fetches students a median entry-level salary of ₹13 lakh per annum. The IIM model is high fees, high premium. For instance, IIM Calcutta charges a fee of ₹31 lakh per year, manages almost full placement and fetches a median salary of ₹30 lakh per annum (2021-22). Creating graduates who will be in demand is not easy. Even decades-old elite private institutes are yet to reach IIT or IIM levels. Their placement record is 60% -85%, and the median salary ranges between ₹5 lakh and ₹8 lakh. The 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report on the internationalisation of higher education in Gulf Cooperation Council countries too points out that despite GCC nations heavily investing in branch campuses of foreign universities and providing them financial incentives, "the employment workforce nationalisation has been elusive."

Students travelling abroad pay more fees for better opportunities and enriching cultural experiences. Realising this, countries such as the UAE, where Indian students are the largest among international students, offer 10-year visas for exceptional students and five-year visas for others to seek work. This makes the UAE an attractive destination.

Setting up foreign universities will not lead to a radical reduction in outward flow, but would marginally increase local options and redistribute students amongst the elite institutions.

Setting up foreign universities in India will not lead to a radical reduction in outward flow, but will marginally increase local options and redistribute students amongst the elite institutions

Striving to repair strained ties

The BJP and AIADMK know that if they contest polls separately, the DMK will win

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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In the last five years, the alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP has never been free of controversies. But the recent developments in Tamil Nadu have been markedly different from the earlier spats between the two parties.

Over the last couple of weeks, the AIADMK has admitted nearly a dozen members and functionaries of the BJP, including the national party's State IT cell and social media unit president C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar. This might not have generated much heat had Mr. Nirmal Kumar quietly joined the AIADMK. In fact, no one raised their eyebrows when P. Saravanan, former Tiruparankundram MLA and a party hopper who was fielded by the BJP in Madurai North in the 2021 Assembly elections and who quit the national party in August last year, joined the AIADMK two months ago. But Mr. Nirmal Kumar chose to express publicly his disenchantment with the BJP State leadership and even insinuated that BJP State president K. Annamalai was "secretly bargaining" with a DMK minister.

This is not the first time that Mr. Annamalai is at the receiving end; a few other office-bearers in the BJP State unit too have left the party. One of them also made sensational charges against the State president. But what has upset the BJP is that the AIADMK is admitting members from its own ally unfazed, losing no time while doing so. The BJP said this was an "act of poaching." This interpretation was rejected by the AIADMK, which has maintained that it did not make any effort to woo

anyone. Those who were joining the Dravidian party were doing so of their own free will, it said.

The BJP State president of the Sports and Skill Development Cell, Amar Prasad Reddy, publicly expressed his disapproval of the AIADMK's action. He also pointed out the difference of margin with which the Dravidian major lost in the byelection to Erode East saying, "The voters showed the exit [door] to those who considered the 'Kongu' region [western districts of the State] their fort." Mr. Annamalai warned that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

When it looked like the war of words was going out of control, the AIADMK's secretaries of its district units and other key office-bearers met last Thursday and decided to douse the fire. They announced that the party's alliance with the BJP "remained intact." A couple of mid-level leaders of both the parties reportedly brought about the truce, though the reasons for the differences have not become irrelevant.

The BJP, which is keen to open an account in the 2024 general elections in Tamil Nadu after a gap of more than 20 years, wants to face the electorate with the AIADMK and all the groups associated with it. This includes the camps of former AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam and former interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala, as well as the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam led by former MP T.T.V. Dhinakaran. In the run-up to the Erode East byelection, the BJP's *prabhari* (in charge) for Tamil Nadu, C.T. Ravi, told the media that he tried to convince both AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam of "the need to work together in the interests of Tamil Nadu."

However, the position of Mr. Palaniswami, as articulated by the party's organisation secretary D. Jayakumar, is that there is no space for Mr. Panneerselvam, Ms. Sasikala and Mr. Dhinakaran. Without them, he said, the party can win the Lok Sabha polls as there is "enough discontentment" among the public with the DMK regime. Many of the AIADMK's leaders also believe that the party can hope to regain the support of religious minorities in the State if it distances itself from the BJP.

Notwithstanding their public statements and their tense equation, the AIADMK and the BJP know that by contesting the Lok Sabha elections separately, they will only be facilitating a total sweep by the DMK-led front. Even in 2019, the AIADMK managed to bag one seat – Theni. This time, even that constituency may go the other way if there is a split in anti-DMK votes. Besides, despite the talk of some of its constituents not being happy, the coalition led by the ruling party seems to be in the driver's seat as it is more cohesive than its rival. The chances of dramatic exits from its side appear dim. Under these circumstances, the AIADMK and the BJP seem to realise that it would be better to bury the hatchet, at least for the time being. And this is what they have done.

WPL is not a token gesture, but a hard-fought win

In both run rate and boundaries hit in T20s, the Indian women's team is closing the gap with its male counterpart

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) is a culmination of consistently superior T20 performances by women cricketers in recent years. In some T20 parameters, the performance of Indian women has matched or nearly matched that of the Indian men's team in recent years. So, the WPL is not a token gesture to promote equal representation in cricket, but a hard-fought win for the exhibition of talent.

Also, the WPL is not a spur-of-the-moment idea. It is the latest move in a series of steps taken by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the recent past. In 2018, the BCCI started the Women's T20 Challenge with two teams – Trailblazers and Supernovas – led by star Indian players Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur, respectively. The tournament was expanded to three teams the next year. In October 2022, the BCCI implemented a 'pay equity policy' for its contracted women cricketers and raised their match fee to match the fee of their male counterparts.

The number of T20 games played by Indian women has also increased consistently over years and has peaked in the latest season. In the 2022-23 season, India has already played 23 international T20 matches, the highest-ever. **Chart 1** plots the number of international T20 matches played by India and all the teams put together. Both the curves were on a near-vertical rise before COVID-19. Post the peak-pandemic period, the rise has continued. So, interest in the shorter format of the game has clearly grown.

Chart 2 plots the number of T20I matches played by select teams season-wise, on the horizontal axis. For instance, India has played 23 T20Is in the 2022-23 season, the most across all the teams in a season (the circle on top).

Chart 2 also plots the % of T20I wins (wins/matches) across select teams season-wise on the vertical axis. In the two seasons mentioned above – 2022-23 and 2019-20 – India's win % was 56% and 73%, respectively. On the other hand, the Australian team won 92% of the matches played in the 2022-23 season. England managed to win nine out of the 10 matches played in the same season. Given this, it was not surprising that many Australian and English players dominated the WPL auction.

That being said, Indian women have been consistently improving their scoring rate in T20s over the years. **Chart 3** shows the season-wise average runs per over (RPO) scored by Indian women's and men's teams in T20s. The gap in the RPO between the men's and the women's teams has been consistently narrowing. In the last four seasons, India's RPO in women's T20 games has been above seven.

A similar trend can be seen in the boundaries scored too. The gap in the boundaries scored per match between the Indian men and women in T20Is is fast closing as shown in **Chart 4**.

Moreover, the monetary compensation that the WPL/IPL offers is a definite morale booster, especially for Indian women. Smriti Mandhana's auction price was 580% more than her BCCI annual player contract, while it was only 114% more in the case of Viral Kohli as shown in **Table 5**. The WPL has also helped revive the careers of relatively older players such as Saika Ishaque, who is currently topping the wicket charts in the tournament, though she is yet to make an India debut. It has also helped younger players such as Shefali Verma, who has currently hit the most sixes in the WPL, to establish their dominance and seal their place in the Indian team.

Closing the gap

The table and charts are based on the ESPNcricinfo's Statsguru, the Women Premier League website, the Indian Premier League website and the BCCI press releases

Chart 1 | The number of international T20 matches played by India and all the teams put together over seasons

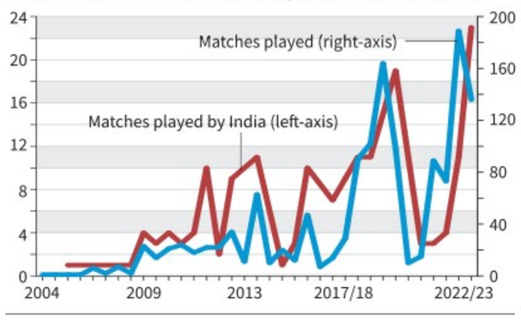

Chart 2 | T20Is played across seasons (horizontal axis) and win % (vertical axis). Each circle corresponds to a season

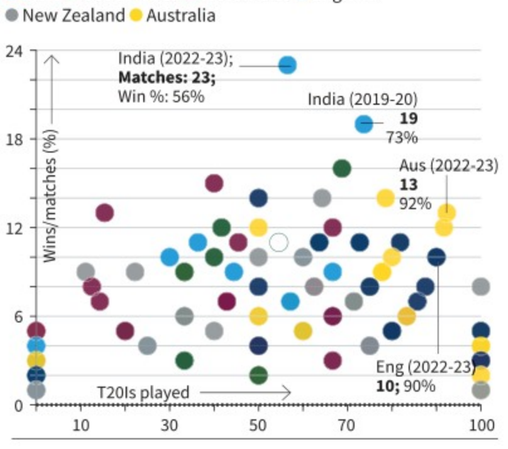

Chart 3 | Season-wise average runs per over (RPO) scored by Indian women's and men's teams in T20Is

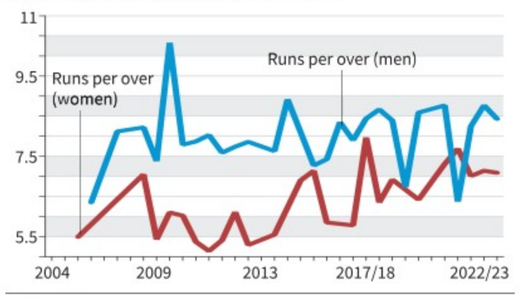

Chart 4 | Season-wise boundaries per match scored by Indian women's and men's teams in T20Is

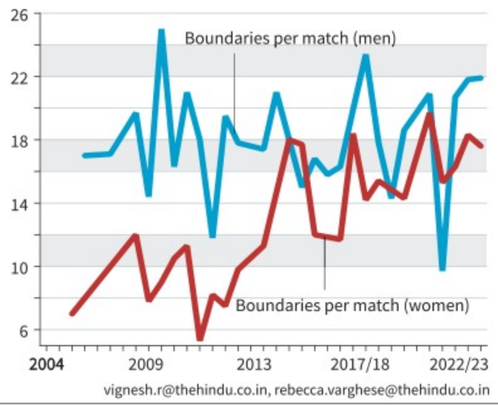

Table 5 | The table shows annual contracts by BCCI for 2020-21 and the price paid for them in WPL/IPL for select players

Players	Annual Player Contracts 2020-21	Price paid in WPL/IPL	%
Smriti Mandhana	₹0.5 crore	₹3.4 crore	580
Virat Kohli	₹7 crore	₹15 crore	114
Harmanpreet Kaur	₹0.5 crore	₹1.8 crore	260
Rohit Sharma	₹7 crore	₹16 crore	129

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 14, 1973

Kennedy's plan for pull-out from Vietnam

Los Angeles, March 13: Mr. Arthur Schlesinger Jr told jurors in the Pentagon papers trial yesterday that conceivably it could have helped – not harmed – the United States if a top secret account of former President John Kennedy's plans to withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam had been released to the public. Mr. Schlesinger, a Pulitzer prize-winning historian and Kennedy Adviser, took the stand after the completion of cross-examination of Mr. McGeorge Bundy, a former Adviser to Kennedy and Johnson. He was followed to the witness stand by another one-time Kennedy assistant, Mr. Galbriath, former U.S. Ambassador in India. He was asked whether the United States would have suffered harm if a secret volume of the papers – detailing Kennedy's plan for phased withdrawal – had been released in 1969, the year they were copied. "It is my belief that the earlier disclosure of this information would have been of positive advantage to the United States," he answered. The remark was expunged from the record after the prosecutor objected to the comment. But Mr. Schlesinger later explained to jurors that advantage might lie in the fact that "a glut of information" could confuse and preoccupy a foreign intelligence analyst. "The more they read material like this, the better it is for our people," he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 14, 1923

The Motor Tax

Allahabad, March 13: The Allahabad motorists assembled in large numbers at the Alfred Park last evening to protest against the proposed motor tax. Mr. Justice Walsh took the chair and strongly condemned the imposition of tax. Mr. Lalitmohan Banerjee moved and Mr. T.C. Morrison seconded the following motion which was carried unanimously: This meeting of the motorists in Allahabad brought together without any organisation, respectfully submits to the Governor that their new proposal to tax motor cars is harsh, because motors in Allahabad are not luxuries but necessities, one-sided because motorists are already saddled with heavy burden and inequitable as there are many avenues unexplored by which money can be raised and spread equally over the community."

From Page One

Pleas on same-sex union sent to five-judge Bench

Chief Justice Chandrachud said the case involved an "interplay" between constitutional rights of life, liberty, dignity, equal treatment of members of the LGBTQ+ community on one side and specific statutory enactments that consider only a married union between a biological man and woman on the other. The three-judge Bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, invoked Article 145(3) of the Constitution to refer the case to a five-judge Bench.

The petitioners argued that the court's judgment in the Navtej Singh Johar case in 2018, while decriminalising homosexuality, had also upheld the individual right to family and choice of partners. "Right to love and marry cannot be withheld from a class of persons solely on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Right to marry is the natural consequence of the decriminalisation judgment," senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for petitioners, submitted. Senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan highlighted the need to give same-sex marriages legal recognition as issues of inheritance, adoption, etc., would come into play.

RRR song, *the Elephant Whisperers* win Oscars

All That Breathes, Shaunak Sen's climate change documentary set in Delhi, lost out to Canada's *Navalny* on Russian dissident leader Alexei Navalny in the Documentary Feature category.

Ms. Gonsalves dedicated her win to "motherland India". "... To all the women watching... The future is audacious and the future is here. Let's go! Jai hind," wrote her producer, Ms. Monga, in an Instagram post moments later.

An overwhelmed Mr. Keeravaani broke into a song to describe his feeling. "I grew up listening to The Carpenters and now here I am with the Oscars. There was only one wish on my mind, so was Rajamouli's and our families' – *RRR* has to win... Pride of every Indian... must put me on the top of the world," Mr. Keeravani said in tune to The Carpenters' much-loved 1970s song *Top of the World*. Mr. Chandrabose simply signed off with a "*Namaste*".

SEBI probing Adani issue: Finance Ministry

The SEBI had told the Supreme Court that it was enquiring into the allegations made against the Adani Group firms in the Hindenburg report as well as the market activity immediately preceding and post the publication of the report, to identify violations. The top court, in a March 2 order, directed the SEBI to conclude its investigation into Adani Group firms within two months.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, responding to a query on the loan and credit exposures of public sector financial banks and insurance firms to the Adani Group, said the Reserve Bank of India is prohibited from disclosing credit information submitted by a bank. "The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that its debt exposure to Adani Group of Companies... was ₹6,347.32 crore and ₹6,182.64 crore, as on 31.12.2022 and 5.3.2023, respectively. The five public sector general insurance companies have informed that these companies do not have loan/credit exposure to Adani Group," Ms. Sitharaman added.

As of March 5, LIC's highest debt exposure was to Adani Ports and SEZ at ₹5,388.6 crore. Another ₹794 crore of debt relates to two Adani Power projects in Mundra and Maharashtra and another couple of Adani Group firms.

MEA planning to train our officials: Taliban

"This is only an online course – available across the world, including to Afghan students. While none of the students is being invited to India, we are not discriminating against Afghan nationals, and anyone can avail of the course," a government official said, stressing that New Delhi does not recognise the Taliban, or its MFA, or its diplomats.

The Taliban memo sparked angry reactions online from Afghan students who have been unable to complete their education in India, as New Delhi cancelled all existing visas after the Taliban takeover, and, according to diplomatic sources, has not yet granted a single new visa for students wishing to travel to India. Onib Dadgar, 28, said he was "shocked and disappointed" to read about the online courses, given the predicament of students like him. Mr. Dadgar, an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholar, and his wife were due to travel to Karnataka as he was enrolled in a PhD programme but are now stranded.

"It is really sad that in such a difficult time when Afghans need help, India denies to extend a helping hand, especially to those students whom they supported for years," he wrote to *The Hindu*. However, he says, he has "lost faith in India-Afghan friendship", given that his calls and emails to the government have gone unanswered for nearly two years. The lack of visas is also an issue for those students presently in India, as they are unable to return home to see their families, for fear they cannot return to complete their education.

Parliament disrupted as BJP seeks apology from Rahul over U.K. speech

He tried to 'deeply hurt' India's honour, prestige, says Rajnath Singh in the Lok Sabha; Congress demands JPC probe into Adani-Hindenburg issue, says govt. is attempting to avoid a discussion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both Houses of Parliament witnessed disruptions on Monday, the first day of the second leg of the Budget Session, as the Treasury benches adopted an offensive strategy and raised the issue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speeches abroad and demanded an apology from him.

The Opposition said the government was trying to disrupt the House to avoid a discussion on the Adani stock controversy. Following the ruckus, both Houses were adjourned around 2 p.m. without taking up any business.

As soon as the Lok Sabha convened for the day, after obituary references, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that Mr. Gandhi had defamed India in London by saying that democracy in India was in shambles and that foreign powers should save India's democracy. The Defence Minister said that the former Congress president had tried to "deeply hurt" India's honour and prestige.

Verbal duel: Lok Sabha members moving into the Well of the House, leading to the adjournment of the session on Monday. PTI

In the Rajya Sabha, Leader of the House and Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal raised the matter without naming Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Goyal said an Opposition leader defamed the country, its constitutional institutions, its democracy and the Army in a foreign land. "He makes allegations against the Indian press, Indian judiciary, Indian media, Election Commission and the Indian Army."

Mr. Singh, who is also Deputy Leader of the Lok Sabha, requested Speaker Om Birla that the House should condemn Mr. Gandhi's remarks and the Congress leader should be asked to apologise.

When the Congress members went into the Well of the House protesting against the remarks, Mr. Birla said democracy in India was strong and getting stronger. He asked them to let the House function properly.

Earlier as soon as the House convened for the day, BJP MPs started raising slogans seeking an apology from Mr. Gandhi over his remarks. The Opposition hit back shouting slogans on the Adani-Hindenburg issue and demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe it.

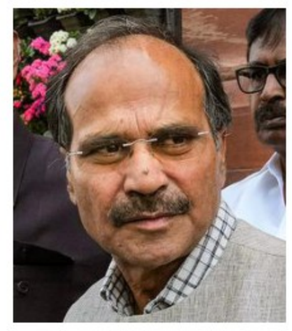
Opposition stages stir

In the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition members questioned Mr. Goyal even as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said everyone had a right to place their views inside the House. Later, Opposition members demonstrated in front of Parliament demanding a probe into Adani stock controversy. Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge condemned Mr. Goyal's statement. He said it was against the rules to refer speeches of members of the Lok Sabha in the Rajya Sabha.

Speaking to reporters outside the House, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "It is clear, the government doesn't want a debate, which is why BJP MPs were leading the protest. We will continue with our demand, we want a JPC on the PM-linked Adani maha mega scam, we want a debate on the border situation with China, we want a debate on misuse of investigating agencies," he said.

Expunge remarks on Rahul by Rajnath, Pralhad: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

In a sign of stepped-up confrontation with the government, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday wrote to Speaker Om Birla demanding that the remarks made by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi against Rahul Gandhi be expunged from the records.

The Congress leader, along with Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) T.R. Baalu, also walked out of a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) that usually allocates business for the week.

In a letter to the Speaker, Mr. Chowdhury said that during the Question Hour, "The remarks made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs were not in good taste and were unparliamentary".

'No personal reference'

He cited Rule 352, which provides that a member, while speaking, shall not make a personal reference by way of levelling an allegation, imputing a motive to or questioning the *bona fide* of any other member of the House.

"Rule 353 also states that no allegation of a defamatory or incriminating nature shall be made unless the member has given adequate notice to the Speaker. Moreover, Rule 357 provides that the Speaker shall allow a member to make a personal explanation if something has been alleged against him. Today, both the Ministers made unsubstantiated remarks against our leader without a prior notice and no opportunity was accorded to the members of his party to refute the allegations," the Congress leader explained.

Speaking to reporters about skipping the BAC meeting, he said attending it made little sense as the government had come prepared to stall the House after making its points. "What's the point of discussing how much time should be allocated for what business when our fundamental rights and privileges are not being honoured?" Mr. Chowdhury asked.

Marriage is a matter of policy, says Rijiju on same-sex union

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government is not "disturbing" the personal freedom and activities of an individual, but the institution of marriage is a matter of policy, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Monday, a day after the Centre filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court opposing same-sex marriage.

Speaking to reporters outside the Parliament House on the Centre's stand in the top court, he said, "The government is not interfering in the personal life, personal activities of anybody. So there should be no confusion. When it comes to an issue related to the institution of marriage, then it is a matter of policy."

"Personal freedom and personal activities of individuals, of the citizens are never being disturbed, regulated, questioned by the government. There is a clear distinction," he added.

Kiren Rijiju

On Sunday, responding to the petitions seeking legal validation of same-sex marriage, the Centre had filed its response, saying that same-sex marriage would cause havoc with the delicate balance of "personal laws and accepted societal values".

The top court has now referred the matter to a five-judge Constitution Bench for adjudication and listed April 18 as the date for the final arguments on the matter.

House panel pulls up Labour Ministry for underutilisation of allocations for its schemes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The panel has asked the Ministry to approach the Ministry of Finance for additional funds

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, headed by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Bhartruhari Mahtab, has pulled up the Union Labour Ministry for underutilisation of the allocations meant for the Ministry's schemes.

The panel has asked the Ministry to assess and work out the likely financial implication for implementing the Supreme Court judgment on higher provident fund pension and approach the Ministry of Finance for additional funds to enable timely payment of amounts that may become due.

The panel, in its report on the demands for grants tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Monday, noted that ₹16,893.68 crore was allocated as Budget estimates 2022-23, which was decreased to ₹16,117.65 crore at revised estimates stage whereas the actual expenditure incurred as on February 21, 2023 was ₹ 13,092.99 crore, which amounts to 81.23% of the revised estimates (RE) amount.

'Substantially low'

"The scheme-wise analysis of utilisation of funds for the fiscal 2022-23 up to February 13, 2023 reveals that the Employee's Pension Scheme (EPS) and National Career Services (NCS) are the only schemes which recorded expenditure up to 90% vis-à-vis RE provisioning whereas for most other schemes, the percentage utilisation has been substantially low," the panel said.

In case of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan, National Database of Unorganised Workers, Labour Welfare Schemes and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, the utilisation recorded has been 26.66%, 30.02%, 30.63% and 48.30%, respectively vis-à-vis the Budget provisioning, the report said. The panel observed that gross underutilisation of the funds has impacted the performance of certain schemes "thereby defeating the laudable intent of these schemes in benefiting the targeted groups".

"The committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to leverage their spending pattern on such schemes where the utilisation percentage is not up to the mark so as to ensure optimal achievement of the 2022-23 allocations by the close of the Financial Year, 2022-23," it said.

Congress flags Vinod Adani's alleged shell companies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Under the *Hum Adani Ke Hain Kaun* (HAHK) series, the Congress on Monday posed a fresh set of questions about Vinod Adani's alleged network of shell companies engaging in "opaque" financial transactions and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi got his "drumbeaters" to get Parliament adjourned so that the demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) into the Adani issue is not raised.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The Mauritius-based Acropolis [shell company] and Xcent both have Subir Mittra, who heads the Adani Family Office, as a director. Vinod Adani is a director in Acropolis, which reported USD 7 billion (₹51,400 crore) as revenue and profit (given near-zero expenses) in 2020-21."

EC tells Allahabad HC that it does not have power to ban caste-based political rallies

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) does not have the jurisdiction to restrict caste-based political rallies held by political parties during non-election period, nor does it have the power to ban such parties from contesting subsequent elections, the election watchdog has submitted before a Bench of the Allahabad High Court, responding to a writ petition that sought a ban on all such political rallies.

The EC's response before the court on February 16 was to a petition filed by advocate Moti Lal Yadav, who had also sought that any political party holding such rallies should be de-registered. Mr. Yadav had filed the petition in 2013, following which the HC had issued notice to the EC and other respondents in July while at the same time issuing interim directions to ban all such caste-based rallies across Uttar Pradesh until the EC "took suitable measures" and appeared before court.

Responding to the prayer to de-register such political parties, the commission submitted that "once a political party is registered, there is no provision in the Law for review of the registration or for the cancelling the registration of any political party on any ground..."

Centre defers meet of EPFO Board to March 27-28

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday announced the deferral of a meeting of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Board, during which it is expected to finalise the EPF rate to be paid on crores of formal sector workers' retirement savings in its custody for 2022-23. The Board of Trustees of the EPFO was earlier slated to meet over March 25 and 26, but the meeting has now been rescheduled to March 27 and 28, according to a communique.

PF pension deadline for pre-2014 retirees extended to May 3

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following the demands by various employees' and employers' associations, Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday extended the time till May 3 for submitting applications for validation of joint options for higher Provident Fund pension for employees who retired before September 1, 2014. The earlier deadline was March 3.

The Ministry had earlier extended the date of submission of joint options for Employees Pension Scheme subscribers who are currently working and those who retired after September 1, 2014, till May 3.

In a statement issued here, the Ministry said the Supreme Court had held that the employees who retired before September 1, 2014 and exercised option under paragraph 11(3) prior to their retirement should be eligible for pension on higher wages.

"Instructions in this regard had been issued to field offices *vide* circular dated December 29, 2022 and January 5, 2023," the Ministry said.

Activists, MPs flag RTI amendment in data protection Bill

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Activists and Opposition MPs on Monday expressed concern over a proposed amendment to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, and said it could close off avenues to citizens to uncover corruption. Section 8(1)(j) of the Act allows officials to refuse access to information if it intrudes on the privacy of an individual, but permits disclosure of information if there is an overriding public interest.

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, which the government may introduce in the Budget Session, removes provisions from Section 8(1)(j) that allow public interest disclosure.

After the amendment, the RTI Act would "now say that any information that is personal will not be disclosed", said Anjali Bhardwaj, co-convenor of the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information (NCPRI).

"Whether the information is shared or not [if the Bill passes] will be at the whims and fancy of the Central government," Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram said. The discussion featured remarks from RTI activists, who warned of ways in which the amendment could stall requests for information in the public interest. Kusum, an activist, said that she was able to discover that ration shops were not distributing cooking oil as required in her neighbourhood, but stock records indicated that they were distributed.

India remains world's largest importer of arms: SIPRI report

It, however, registers a 11% drop in imports between 2013-17 and 2018-22; Russia remains the largest supplier to India, followed by France

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India's arms imports from France, which included 62 combat aircraft and four submarines, increased by 489%.

India remained the world's largest arms importer for the five-year period between 2018 and 2022 even though its arms imports dropped by 11% between 2013-2017 and 2018-2022, according to the Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India from 2013 to 2022, but its share of total imports fell from 64% to 45% while France is the second largest supplier.

As per latest SIPRI data, among the top 10 arms exporters for the period 2018 to 2022, India was the biggest arms export market to three countries – Russia, France and Israel – and the second largest export market to South Korea. India was also the third largest market for South Africa, which was ranked 21 in the list of arms exporters.

For the same period, India remained the largest arms importer followed by Saudi Arabia. Russia accounted for 45% of India's imports followed by France (29%) and the U.S. (11%). Also, India was the third largest arms supplier to Myanmar after Russia and China accounting for 14% of its imports.

"India's tensions with Pakistan and China largely drive its demand for arms imports. With an 11% share of total global arms imports, India was the world's biggest importer of major arms in 2018 to 2022, a position it has held for the period 1993 to 2022. It retained this position even though its arms imports dropped by 11% between 2013 to 2017 and 2018 to 2022," according to SIPRI data.

"The decrease can be attributed to several factors including India's slow and complex arms procurement process, efforts to diversify its arms suppliers, and attempts to replace imports with major arms that are designed and produced domestically."

The report noted that Russia's position as India's main arms supplier is under pressure due to strong competition from other supplier states, increased Indian arms production and, since 2022, also the impact of war in Ukraine

"India's arms imports from France, which included 62 combat aircraft and four submarines, increased by 489% between 2013 to 2017 and 2018 to 2022. France therefore displaced the U.S. to become the second largest supplier to India in 2018 to 2022," the report said.

Just under two thirds of Russian exports went to three states from 2018 to 2022 – India (31%), China (23%) and Egypt (9.3%). India was also the largest recipient of Russian arms from 2013 to 2017, but exports decreased by 37% between the two periods.

Pakistan is 'vilifying' India, ties with China complex: MEA report

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

There is no let-up in Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism and Islamabad is yet to show sincerity in delivering justice to the families of the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a report on Monday.

In the same report, the MEA said that India's engagement with China is "complex" and Chinese attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh starting from April-May 2020 seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility in border areas and impacted overall ties.

In its annual report, the MEA also said that Pakistan continues to engage in "hostile and fabricated propaganda" to vilify India and to divert attention from its domestic political and economic failures.

It said India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and New Delhi's consistent position has been that issues, if any, should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. At the same time, it said the onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive environment.

It said the Chinese attempts were invariably met with an "appropriate response" from Indian forces. The MEA said the External Affairs Minister conveyed to his Chinese counterpart that the restoration of normalcy in ties will require the restoration of peace and tranquility along the frontier.

Centre clears disaster relief of ₹1,816 crore to five States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved additional Central assistance worth ₹1,816.16 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Nagaland, which were affected by flood, landslips and cloudburst in 2022. It approved an additional aid of ₹520.46 crore to Assam, ₹239.31 crore to Himachal Pradesh, ₹941.04 crore to Karnataka, ₹47.326 crore to Meghalaya and ₹68.02 crore to Nagaland.

This additional aid is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the States.

Indigenous diesel engine to be ready in four years: Navy chief

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Navy has received sanction for the design and development of a diesel engine for maritime purposes and it is expected to be ready in four years, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said on Monday while acknowledging that there had been supply chain issues for the gas turbine engines sourced from Ukraine which had pushed them to embark on their indigenisation.

To another question, he said there were no plans at present to add more countries to the Malabar naval exercise involving India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.

An ambitious effort to locally co-develop a fighter jet engine in collaboration with global manufacturers was also under way.

'38% of land claims under FRA rejected'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over 38% of all claims over land made under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, till November 30, 2022, have been rejected, data tabled by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the Lok Sabha on March 13 showed.

ED issues summons to Lulu Group owner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The ED's Kochi office has served summons on UAE-based businessman and owner of Lulu Group of Malls M.A. Yusuff Ali for recording his statement in connection with a case. The matter reportedly pertains to transactions to the tune of about ₹300 crore with respect to Kerala's LIFE Mission project for the construction of houses in a "joint venture" between the Kerala government and private companies from the UAE.

The ED has asked Mr. Ali to appear before it on March 16. His name reportedly came up in the recent revelations made by Swapna Suresh.

APPOINTMENT

Advertisement No. 8 /2023
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman & Managing Director
In
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by **15.00 hours on 16th May, 2023.**
For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Ph. No. : 0141-2223887, Fax : 0141-2228065, E-Mail : edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in
No. : F-8( )RMSC/EPM/M-6/NIB-746/2022-23/2255 Dated :- 03/03/2023
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for Item (Walk in Cooler) are invited from interested bidders up to 22.03.2023; 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal websie **"https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in"** or **"www.dipronline.org"** or **"https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"** or website **"www.rmsc.nic.in".**
UBN No. : MSC2223GLRC00133 Executive Director (EPM)
Raj.Samwad/C/22/15883 Rajasthan Medical Services Corp. Ltd., Jaipur

Telangana State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd.,
5-2-68, 3rd Floor, Mahatma Gandhi Markfed Bhavan, Jambagh, Hyderabad- 500095.
Phone: 040-24607106 & 24607108 PMBX 2 Lines, Fax: 040-24607100.
TENDER NOTICE
The Telangana State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited (TS MARKFED) is inviting tenders for Handling, Storage and Transportation of fertilizer in Telangana State for the financial year 2023-2024 through online e-procurement platform of Government of Telangana **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.**
TENDER PROCESS:
Online tendering process is two bid systems i.e. Technical and Price Bid for each rake point as per Schedule. Following are the dates and time for e-tender process.
- Bid submission start date : 14.03.2023 from 03:00 P.M.
- Pre-Bid meeting date : 18.03.2023 at 11:00 A.M
- Bid Submission end Date : 27.03.2023 at 5:00 P.M.
- Opening of Technical bid date : 28.03.2023 from 1 1:00 A.M.
- Opening of Price Bid Date : 29.03.2023 at 3:00 P.M.
- Tender inviting /Opening Authority : Managing Director/Convenor, TS MARKFED

e-mail/contact details: **fert.tsmarkfed2020@gmail.com. Contact : 7288879803, 7702515550.**
Web site: www.tsmarkfed.com.
Contact Details for Service Provider for online e-procurement platform
Vupadhi Techno Services Pvt. Ltd.
Mobile no; 7337445546 / 7337445545 / 6309339690 / 9912756216
e-Mail ID: tseprocsupport@vupadhi.com
DIPR No. : 1374-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Sd/- Managing Director

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जोधपुर
Tel.: 0291-2650730, Email: ace2jodhpur@gmail.com
क्रमांकः क्षेत्र-II/जोधपुर/ निविदा/ / 2022-23/8000-28 दिनांकः 01.03.2023
तृतीय बिड संशोधन सूचना (NIB) संख्या 97/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक क्षेत्र-II/ जोधपुर/ निविदा// 2022-23/6817-45 दिनांक 06.01.2023 द्वारा जारी की गई निविदा संख्या 97/2022-23 में RICL/Processing Fee तथा दिनांक में आवश्यक संशोधन जारी किया जाकर https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया। (UBN No. PHE2223WLRC11767 & Eproc ID 2022_PHCJO_313976_1)

	पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक व समय	संशोधित निर्धारित दिनांक व समय
ऑनलाईन बिड डाउनलोड/ अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	01.03.2023 को 6.00 पी.एम.	13.03.2023 को 6.00 पी.एम.
ऑनलाईन बिड खोलने की तिथि	02.03.2023 को 2.00 पी.एम.	14.03.2023 को 2.00 पी.एम.

उक्त बिड आमंत्रण सूचना के शेष बिन्दू/ निविदाएं यथावत रहेगी। बिड से संबंधित पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट www.dipronline.org, sppp.raj.nic.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
अधिशासी अभियंता एवं त.स. जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र द्वितीय जोधपुर
DIPR/C/3537/2023

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, MAHARANA BHUPAL GOVT. HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR
No. S.O./Pur-I/F.e-Tendering Proc/2023/9 Dated: 25.02.2023
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for below works in M.B. Govt. Hospital, Udaipur are invited from interested bidders up to 05.00 PM dated: 20.03.2023 Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, htttp://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

S. No.	Details	UBN No.
1.	अधीक्षक, महाराणा भूपाल राजकीय चिकित्सालय उदयपुर में मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क दवा योजना के अन्तर्गत चिकित्सालय में आने वाले रोगियों को निःशुल्क दवा उपलब्ध कराये जाने हेतु Drugs and Medicine की अनुमानित मात्रा उपलब्ध कराने हेतु ई-निविदा	GHU2223 GLRC00099

DIPR/C/3472/2023 Superintendent, M.B. Govt. Hospital, Udaipur

KELTRON (Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
RE E-TENDER
Automatic Ageing, Testing and Sorting Machine for Manufacture of Aluminium Electrolytic Capacitor
For details, Visit: www.keltroncomp.org
Or Go to:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and tender search with key word "KCCL"
[Id:2023_KCCL_565945_1]
Kannur, Kerala, Tel: 0497-2780740

MARKFED - ODISHA
OLD STATION ROAD, BHUBANESWAR - 751006
Ref.No.1025/ Insp /14-15/2021-22 Date : 13.03.2023
NOTICE INVITING RFP (Request For Proposal)
Request For Proposal (RFP)s are invited from the eligible interested parties / firms for Managing and Operating of MARKFED-Odisha , Godowns under Public Private Participation (PPP) Model. **For details please visit Government of Odisha Tender website (www.odisha.gov.in)** or **Cooperation Department website (www.coop.odisha.gov.in)**. Any revision, clarification, addendum, corrigendum, time extension etc. to the above mentioned notice will be hosted on **Cooperation Department** web-site only. No separate notification shall be issued in press.
Managing Director
THE ODISHA STATE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LIMITED
Tel: (0674) 2310626 / 2311128, E-mail : odishamarkfed@gmail.com, orissamarkfed@yahoo.com; www.markfedodisha.nic.in
CAD-5123: OIPR-39017/11/0007/2223

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-72/70/2022-23 Date: 13.03.2023
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)
Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of Formation of proposed 12M Wide Roads, Including CC Drains & Deck Slab Culvert in Hassan Co-operative Societies Union ltd, Plot Premises at Sub Layout-4 in Hassan Growth Centre, Hassan Taluk & District.
Last date for submission of bids is: **21.03.2023 upto 04:30 pm**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/5249/Zen/2022-23

ओएनजीसी ONGC **ongc** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
EASTERN OFFSHORE ASSET/HPHT ASSET, KAKINADA (A.P.)
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
EOA/ HPHT Asset, Kakinada invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Agencies for carrying out **Annual Civil Maintenance Works for 3 Years at ONGC OGT, Mallavaram, HPHT-EOA, ONGC, East Godavari District**. Interested Agencies are requested to submit their profile along with documentary evidence regarding PQC (Past Experience) on or before **14:00 Hrs. on 03-04-2023** through e-mail to **saravanan2_r@ongc.co.in** and **yasaswi_akkiraju@ongc.co.in**. For further details please visit website: **http://tenders.ongc.co.in**
#ONGC Jeetega Toh Jeetega India

MUNICIPAL BOARD, NATHDWARA DIST.- RAJSAMAND
S.No. :- M.B.Nath/Nirman/22-23/20933 Date :- 03/03/2023
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for different works Nit No. 67 /2022-23 of Municipal Board Nathdwara are invited from interested bidders up to date 05/04/2023 on 18:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state govt.
UBN No. – DLB2223WSOB30731
Raj.Samwad/C/22/15888 Commissioner

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Project -East), Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building, 21st Floor (PUB), Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore -01
No: EE/P-E/Tend-08/Cor-2/2022-23 Date:13.03.2023
CORRIGENDUM-2
Due to technical reasons, this undersigned office is unable to upload the tender documents in e-Portal, hence with respect to the Tender Notification No. **EE/P-E/Tend/08/2022-23 issued on Dated:13.122023.** The revised tender schedule dates **for the works of Sl. No. 6 and Sl. No. 9** as per Notification is as follows :

Details	Rescheduled dates
Documents can be downloaded from	**14.03.2023onwards**
Last date for uploading the Porposals	**21.03.2023 upto 4.00 p.m.**
Opening of technical Proposals	**23.03.2023 at 4.30 p.m.**
Opening of financial Proposals	**After approval of technical bid from competent authority.**

All Other terms and conditions remains the same.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Project -East)

जिला आयुष सोसाइटी, राजसमन्द
(कार्यालय उपनिदेशक आयुर्वेद विभाग, राजसमन्द)
क्रमांकः 171 दिनांकः 03.03.2023
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid For Construction of Meditourism and Ayush Wellness Centre on EPC Basis at Billi ki Bhagal, Nathdwara, Rajsamand (Rajasthan) of estimated cost of 30.00 Crore are invited form interested bidders up to 12.00 PM (Time) 27/03/2023 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in website.
UBN: AYU2223WLOB00182 Member Secretary
District Ayush Society
Rajsamand
DIPR/C/3609/2023

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patullos Road, Chennai – 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com
Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period APR - MAY 2023.
Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.
Sealed offers can be submitted to the **Vice President (Supply Chain),** Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 **to reach on or before 29th MARCH 2023.**

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 06-03-2023 to 12-03-2023
Kerala State Civil Supplies Department
Tender ID: 2023_KSCSD_564166_1 * Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affair * Suppy Delivery Insallation and AMC of Electronic Weighing Sc * Closing Date: 15-Mar-2023 * PAC: Rs150000000
Motor Vehicles Dept,Transport Commissionerate
Tender ID: 2023_MVD_565024_1 * Transport Commissioner * SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF DASHBOARD CAMERAS IN KSRTC BUSES * Closing Date: 16-Mar-2023 * PAC: Rs100000000
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:06-12/Mar/2023/PRD/(N)15

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-बीकानेर
क्रमांकः 3257 दिनांकः 27.02.2023
निविदा संशोधन
NIB No. PWD2223A4357
इस कार्यालय की अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना सं. 06/पीएमजीएसवाई-III/बीक-II/2022-23 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:

क्र.सं.	कार्यस्थल का नाम/ पूर्व में प्रकाशित	पूर्व में प्रकाशित पैकेज संख्या	संशोधित पैकेज/ दिनांक
1	बीकानेर	Package No. RJ06P312/2022-23	Package No. RJ06P313/2022-23
2	बीकानेर	Package No. RJ06P313/2022-23	Package No. RJ06P314/2022-23
3	बीकानेर	Package No. RJ06P314/2022-23	Package No. RJ06P315/2022-23
4	बीकानेर	Package No. RJ06P315/2022-23	Package No. RJ06P316/2022-23
5	बीकानेर	Package No. RJ06P316/2022-23	Package No. RJ06P317/2022-23
6	बीकानेर	Package No. RJ06P317/2022-23	Package No. RJ06P318/2022-23
7	ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	31 मार्च, 2023 को सायं 4.00 बजे	14 मार्च, 2023 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे
8	लेवेदक द्वारा मूल दस्तावेज जमा कराने की तिथि	14 मार्च, 2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे	14 मार्च, 2023 को दोपहर 1.00 बजे तक

यूबीएन नं.

PWD2223WLOB17064	PWD2223WSOB17076	PWD2223WLOB17104	PWD2223WLOB17125
PWD2223WLOB17066	PWD2223WLOB17080	PWD2223WSOB17108	PWD2223WSOB17126
PWD2223WLOB17067	PWD2223WLOB17084	PWD2223WLOB17111	PWD2223WSOB17127
PWD2223WLOB17068	PWD2223WLOB17088	PWD2223WLOB17116	PWD2223WSOB17129
PWD2223WLOB17069	PWD2223WLOB17093	PWD2223WSOB17121	PWD2223WLOB17131
PWD2223WLOB17071	PWD2223WLOB17096	PWD2223WSOB17123	
PWD2223WLOB17072	PWD2223WSOB17100	PWD2223WLOB17124	

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(सुनील कुमार कालानी) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सानिवि संभाग-बीकानेर
DIPR/C/3553/2023

SPEM - KUDUMBASHREE,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Kudumbashree State Mission, 2nd Floor, TRIDA Rehabilitation Building Medical College.P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695011, Kerala.
E- TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref. No.: KSHO/M-Skills/02/2023 **Dt.:** 11/03/2023
Tender ID : 2023_SPEM_564364_1
E-Tenders are invited from competent organisations for the selection of State Technical Support Agency (STSA) under DDU-GKY, a Skill and Placement Programme run by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India and Kudumbashree, Govt. of Kerala.
Title of Work : "Selection of STSA for DDUGKY Kerala".
EMD Amount : Rs. 1,00,000/-
Last date & time of online submission of Bids :
15:00 Hrs on 25/03/2023
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the **website: http://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
RO/00638/D3/2023/I&PRD

INBRIEF

SC issues notice to Gujarat on Saket Gokhale's bail petition

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to Gujarat on a plea filed by Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale against the State High Court's refusal to grant him bail in the case concerning alleged misappropriation of money collected through crowdfunding. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Vikram Nath listed the case after two weeks. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi appeared for Mr. Gokhale. The allegations against Mr. Gokhale is that he collected money through crowdfunding from over 1,700 people during the pandemic and misappropriated the amount. The case was registered after a donor filed a complaint.

NIA conducts raid at IS operative's house in Srinagar

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday raided the house of an IS operative in Srinagar as part of its investigation into the recruitment of Kerala locals into the outfit. Separately, a militant's house was "attached" and a hideout busted in south Kashmir. The NIA searched the house of Uzair Azhar Bhat in Karfali Mohalla, Srinagar, and seized digital devices. The NIA is investigating the links of Mohammed Ameen alias Abu Yahya, a resident of Kadannamanna in Mallapuram, and Deepthi Marla, a converted Muslim of Kerala married to Anas Abdul Rahiman of Mangaluru, for their alleged links with the IS.

SC upholds Allahabad HC's order to remove mosque

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed special leave petitions challenging a 2017 judgment of the Allahabad High Court to remove a mosque from the High Court premises. The High Court had ordered the removal of the mosque to avail the land for its own use/expansion. A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah confirmed the High Court judgment, saying the "disputed property in question was needed for a public purpose" and there were cogent reasons given for the move. The High Court had given the mosque authorities three months to vacate the premises. The Waqf Masjid High Court and the U.P. Sunni Central Waqf Board had moved the Supreme Court against the High Court decision.

Auditing frameworks needed for AI, blue economy: CAG

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, on Monday called for initiatives to develop auditing frameworks and granular checklists on the two emerging sectors of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and "Blue Economy". He said that although AI could contribute up to $15.7 trillion to the global economy in 2030, it had also raised concerns related to privacy, transparency, and fairness. "It (AI) has the potential to lead socio-economic growth and can be used to benefit citizens and the country through targeted and timely intervention," said Mr. Murmu.

SC raps Ministry of Defence over OROP arrear payment dues

It asks the government to submit a note by March 20 specifying the exact quantum of arrears due to be paid and the modalities of payment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Defence Ministry to file a three-page note specifying the exact quantum of arrears due to be paid under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, while noting that it was "sad" that four lakh retired defence personnel had already died waiting for their pension.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud ordered the government to also detail the modalities of the payment of OROP and "prioritisation" of disbursement, that is, first to defence widows and the oldest of retirees, in the note. The note has to be filed before the next hearing on March 20.

"Our concern is that our ex-service personnel get the money. It is sad that four lakh people have died," Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked.

The government, represented by Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, sought an extension of time to pay the entire dues.

"You [government] seem to have enough money for other things, events and projects, but no money to pay pensioners... Four lakh pensioners have died during the pendency of this petition," senior advocate Huzefa Ahmedi and advocate Balaji Srinivasan, for the pensioners, protested. "We are entirely with you. It is sad. The arrears will be paid to their families," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Mr. Ahmedi.

Mr. Venkataramani said the government could not wave a "magic wand". There were "operational concerns" involved. Digitalisation of information was on. "Let us understand the dimensions involved," he said.

The court, as in the previous hearing, took offence to the Ministry's letter on January 20, basically informing that except in the case of family pensioners and gallantry awardees, the others would only get their OROP arrears in four equal half-yearly instalments. The Ministry had not bothered to consult the court before issuing the letter.

"You first withdraw the letter, then we will consider your application for extension of time," the CJI said.

Health Minister urges private hospitals to start medical colleges

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The move is aimed at adding more seats which will help in providing quality medical education

In a meeting on Monday with at least 62 private and charitable hospitals, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya urged them to think about introducing medical education in their respective institutes.

Mr. Mandaviya said that when best hospitals impart best medical education, their wide range of health infrastructure can be utilised towards learning by medical students.

"I am positive that of the 62 hospitals, at least 15 to 20 will apply with an intention to open a medical college," he said.

The Gurugram-based Medanta Medicity, Apollo Hospitals and Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai were among the 62 private players which took part in the meeting.

"Earlier, big hospitals were not keen to start medical colleges as they did not want to get into tedious paperwork. The land and seat allotment criteria was also stringent. We have tweaked a few of these criteria to invite more engagement from private and charitable organiations," the Minister said.

Affordable education

Mr. Mandaviya said while a fee fixation committee appointed by the Union government had earlier said that medical colleges should not ideally charge beyond ₹10 lakh annually, many private colleges charge students separately under multiple heads leading to bloated fee structures. "These colleges do not provide quality education. Therefore, we are keen on good charity institutes to introduce more seats for quality and affordable education," he said.

Each year, the government evaluates and inspects applications for introduction of new medical colleges till March before approvals are granted.

CBI launches probe against Red Cross branches

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CBI has launched an inquiry into allegations of corruption against the health non-profit Indian Red Cross Society and its regional branches in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, after the Union Health Ministry raised the issue with the investigating agency.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is the Chairman of the Red Cross Society. Governors of each State head the State-wise chapters.

Official sources in the Ministry said that serious allegations in the functioning of the Tamil Nadu branch had surfaced and the Governor had requested the national headquarters in July 2020 for these to be investigated by the CBI. "The accused chairman obtained a stay from the [Madras] High Court against investigation. This stay was vacated in June last year. The chairman has resigned and the Governor has dissolved the committee," a source said.

Doha-bound IndiGo flight diverted to Karachi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

An IndiGo flight from New Delhi to Doha was diverted to Karachi in Pakistan due to a medical emergency onboard, the airline said on Monday.

According to a statement, flight 6E-1736 was diverted due to the medical emergency but "unfortunately, on arrival, the passenger was declared dead by the airport medical team".

The airline said that it was making arrangements for transferring the other passengers of the flight, in co-ordination with the relevant authorities. "We are deeply saddened by the news and our prayers and wishes are with his family and loved ones," IndiGo said in the statement.

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority officials said the passenger fell ill and the captain requested an emergency landing at the Jinnah International Airport.

149 travellers put on 'no-fly list' in the past three years, says govt.

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

As many as 149 air travellers have been banned by airlines and put on the "no-fly list" in the past three years for unruly conduct, the government told Parliament on Monday.

A large chunk of these complaints were due to improved reporting about unruly behaviour ever since the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a penalty of ₹30 lakh in January on Air India for failing to take action against a 34-year-old passenger, Shankar Mishra, who urinated on a woman traveller on a New York to Delhi flight in November last year, according to a senior government official.

Two complaints a day

The official added that following the action against the erstwhile national carrier, the regulator had seen "two or three" complaints being brought to his attention every day as airlines improved their reporting mechanism.

The DGCA had imposed a penalty on Air India, along with suspending the pilot-in-command for three months, for the "systematic failure" in reporting the incident and failing to hand over the passenger to security personnel and allowing him to walk scot-free once the flight landed in Delhi.

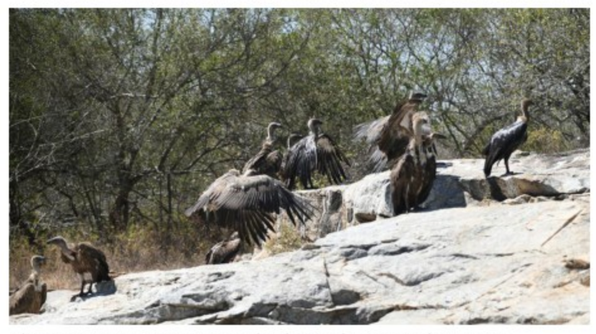
Three categories

The acts of misdemeanours reported by airlines can be broadly divided into three categories – passengers smoking inside the lavatory onboard an aircraft, misconduct after drinking, and argument or brawl with cabin crew and fellow travellers, said the official.

The rules for unruly behaviour were announced in September 2017, under which airlines were allowed to restrict a passenger from flying with it for a period of three months to up to life, depending on the severity of the offence.

246 vultures spotted in synchronised survey in T.N., Kerala and Karnataka

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI



The vantage point count method was chosen as the survey methodology given the terrain's hilly. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

As many as 246 vultures were spotted in the first-ever synchronised survey conducted along the borders of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka on February 25 and 26.

The estimation was carried out in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) and the adjoining landscape consisting of the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Tamil Nadu, the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) in Kerala, the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) and the Nagerhole Tiger Reserve (NTR) in Karnataka. A total of 98 vultures were seen in MTR, two in STR, 52 in WWS, 73 in BTR, and 23 in NTR.

During the survey, conducted in four sessions and six hours, volunteers sighted White-rumped vultures (183), Long-billed vultures (30), Red-headed vultures (28), Egyptian vultures (3), Himalayan Griffon (1), and Cinereous vulture (1).

Based on inputs from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Vulture Specialist Group, the vantage point count method was chosen as the survey methodology given the terrain's hilly and undulating nature. The survey area was divided into hundred grids and one vantage point (a hilltop or the centre of an open plain that would provide a clear view) from each grid was selected. Ease of accessibility was also considered as a criterion for the vantage point, the report said.

The current estimates cannot be considered a sign of a healthy population, S. Bharathidasan of Arulagam, an environmental organisation, said.

Increasing wild carcass availability was one of the major steps needed to be taken for vultures to thrive, he added.

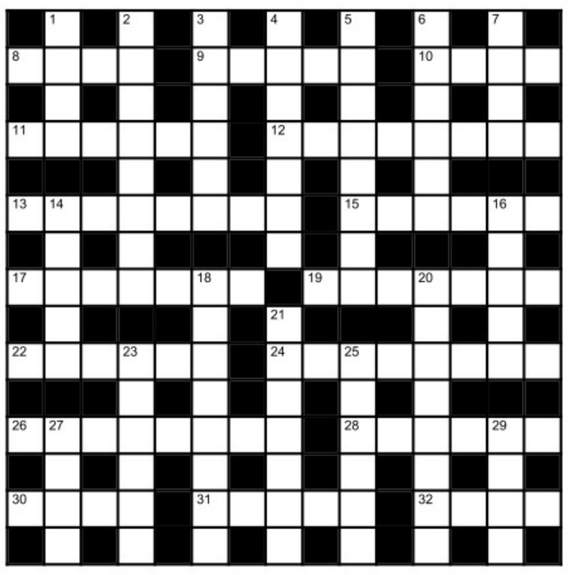
He, however, said that one new vulture nest spotted in Doddacombai in STR was a good sign.

TH CROSSWORD + 13812

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Body part found in Bharuch, India (4)
9 Target handlers at firing range may be safe in these places from flying bullets and rifle stocks (5)
10 Design of US spaceships? (4)
11 One coach leads Uncle Sam to legendary flier (6)
12 Vision from eighty travelling around Spain (8)
13 Hated boar herd running around (8)
15 See heads of horses ominously lying in bed (6)
17 Highest density sediments I'm leaving all over the place (7)
19 Look at part of book for "Percolation" (7)
22 Stick poster at this place (6)
24 Gives up hope when spiders crawl around middle of ear (8)
26 Couple permitted a piece of jewellery (8)
28 Make a hole in seaside structure in front of church (6)
30 Hypochondriac hero's pain (4)
31 Animal's head is substituted by follower in snare (5)
32 Your duke's language (4)

Down

1 Stylish bird without knowledge (4)
2 Large American follows European standard with love (8)
3 Offender's vehicle captured by a queen (6)
4 One hour after 9, dead son takes part (7)
5 See lambs jump and get together (8)
6 Heard menagerie with lots of money is in city (6)
7 Marine operator giving shelter to couples found in Genoa harbour (4)
14 Actor Pitt consumes energy food (5)
16 The French-German drink (5)
18 Saying letter by letter and pronouncing, "Abracadabra", for example (8)
20 Gradually stop producing shape (5,3)
21 Issue diet formulated by Indian consuming egg (7)
23 Pass old flame with rated tennis player, I hear (6)
25 Military engineer forged papers (6)
27 Rhythmically move stone (4)
29 Encrypted text from small document returned by head of embassy (4)

SUDOKU

	6	8		9		7		3
					4		8	
5		7		6				
							9	1
3			7	8	9			6
6	5							
				2		8		9
	3		1					
8		6		3		1	2	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5737 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	1	3	4	5	2	7	6
7	3	4	6	2	1	9	8	5
2	6	5	7	9	8	1	4	3
6	4	3	5	1	2	8	9	7
1	5	2	8	7	9	6	3	4
8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	2
3	1	6	9	5	4	7	2	8
5	2	8	1	3	7	4	6	9
4	9	7	2	8	6	3	5	1

FAITH

Royal devotion

Azhwars, the Vaishnavite saints, were living exemplars of devotion. Each of them experienced and envisioned the Almighty in their unique way, but in a manner that resonated with the faithful. Kulasekhara Azhwar simply saw Rama in everything. In fact, among the more learned, Kulasekhara is referred to as Kulasekhara Perumal because of his utter devotion to Lord Rama, Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse.

In Vaishanava parlance, Perumal always denotes Uttama Purusha who is none other than Rama. As mentioned in Valmiki Ramayana, all the qualities desirable in a man and a king – gunam, dharmam, veeram, vidhvat, satyam, priyam, etc., – are found in Rama and he is celebrated as 'kula' (characteristics) Perumal.

Kulasekhara Perumal was born under the Punarpoosam star in the month of Maasi. Active in his royal duties as the ruler of a Chera kingdom – records show he waged wars with Cholas and Pandayas when necessary – he was a staunch devotee of Rama. Once, while listening to a discourse on the Ramayana, he was so moved by the narration of the plight of Rama's army setting forth to invade Sri Lanka that he shouted he would rally his army in support of Rama's rescue mission for Sita.

Kulasekhara Perumal penned the entire Ramayana in ten verses; Kamban's epochal work in 10,000 verses came much later. He exemplified unwavering faith in his works, specially Perumal Thirumozhi. "Dear God, even if you heap troubles on me, I will not forsake you. If a mother hits a child, does not the child cling to her legs and cry? I too will cling to you," he wrote.

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan court issues non-bailable arrest warrant against Imran Khan

AP

Two non-bailable arrest warrants were issued against ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday for failing to appear in courts in the Toshakhana case and for threatening a woman magistrate while addressing a public gathering here last year. He has skipped indictment hearings in these cases. PTI

KATHMANDU

NC leader Ram Chandra Paudel sworn in as Nepal's third President

ANI

Senior Nepali Congress leader Ram Chandra Paudel was on Monday sworn in as Nepal's third President, days after he comfortably defeated a candidate fielded by an alliance led by CPN-UML. The 78-year-old Paudel spent over a decade in jail. He was a lawmaker six times, a minister five times, and Speaker for one term. PTI

BLANTYRE

Cyclone Freddy returns killing 70 people in Malawi, Mozambique

AFP

Cyclone Freddy, packing powerful winds and torrential rain, killed at least 70 in Malawi and Mozambique on its return to southern Africa. Freddy, set to become the longest-lasting storms, barrelled through southern Africa at the weekend for the second time within a few weeks, making a comeback after a first hit in late February. AFP

LONDON

BBC reaches deal with Gary Lineker after Twitter row

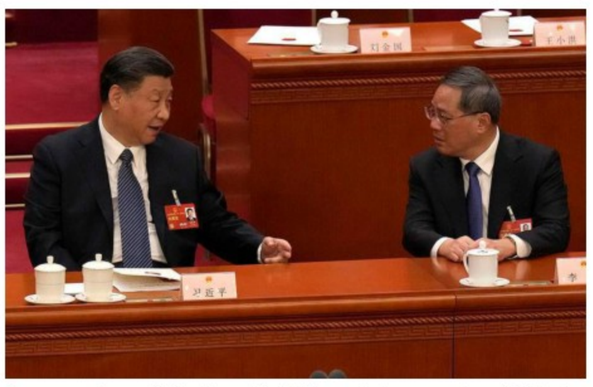
AP

Gary Lineker will return as presenter of the flagship BBC football show Match of the Day, the broadcaster said on Monday, ending a crisis sparked by his outspoken criticism of the U.K. government's new asylum policy. The corporation also said it planned to launch an independent review into its social media guidelines. AFP

China will play an 'active part' in global governance, says Xi

President calls for the military to build a 'Great Wall of steel', while the new Premier reaches out to the private sector as NPC session concludes

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING



Power centres: Xi Jinping with Li Qiang during a session of China's National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on Sunday. AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday said China would "play an active part" in global governance while calling for the Chinese military to build a "Great Wall of steel", as he officially began his third five-year term.

Speaking in Beijing at the conclusion of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) legislative session, which on Friday formally endorsed his unprecedented third term, Mr. Xi said: "China's development benefits the world and China cannot develop in isolation from the rest of the world".

"China will play an active part in the reform and development of the global governance system, contribute its share to building an open world economy, advance the implementation of the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, add more stability and positive energy to the peaceful development of the world, and foster a favourable international environment for China's development," he said, referring to two of his key foreign policy initiatives and speaking days after a landmark agreement signed in Beijing between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

On the domestic front, he said, "security is the bedrock of development, while stability is a prerequisite for prosperity", adding that Beijing would "strengthen China's capacity for safeguarding national security" and "safeguard China's new development pattern with a new security architecture". He called for "efforts to advance the modernisation of national defence and armed forces on all fronts, and build the people's armed forces into a 'Great Wall of steel' that is capable of effectively safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests." Mr. Xi said Beijing would also work "to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology", a key focus of the next term.

The NPC session on Saturday confirmed a close long-term ally of Mr. Xi, Li Qiang, as the next Premier. Mr. Li, who will be charged with managing the Chinese economy, in comments to reporters on Monday offered an olive branch to the embattled private sector.

Acknowledging that the GDP target for the year of "around 5%" would "not be an easy task", he said the broad policy focus would be on economic stability, spurring domestic demand, defusing financial risks such as rising local government debt, and boosting innovation in science and technology and industry.

Everything Everywhere All at Once conquers Oscars with seven wins

Agence France-Presse
HOLLYWOOD

Surreal sci-fi film *Everything Everywhere All at Once* dominated the Oscars on Sunday, winning seven golden statuettes including best picture, Hollywood's most coveted prize.

The unorthodox but beloved movie also won best director, best actress, best original screenplay, best editing, and both the best supporting actor and actress prizes. The film, which features a predominantly Asian cast, was directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert.

Michelle Yeoh, who is Malaysian, becomes the first ever Asian woman to win best actress. "Thank you to the Academy, this is history in the making!"

"Ladies, don't let anybody tell you you are ever past your prime," added the 60-year-old, whose career began decades ago with martial arts films in Hong Kong. Vietnam-born Ke Huy Quan won the best supporting actor and Jamie Lee Curtis won the best supporting actress.

Michelle Yeoh

Brendan Fraser won best actor for playing a morbidly obese teacher in *The Whale*, capping a remarkable career comeback.

All Quiet on the Western Front, Netflix's German-language World War I drama, finished in second place with four awards.

Navalny – about the imprisoned Russian dissident Alexei Navalny – won for best documentary.

Russia an 'acute' threat, China an 'epoch defining' challenge: U.K.

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. government called Russia the "most acute threat" to Britain's security and termed China an "epoch-defining" challenge, as it released a 'refresh' of its foreign and security policy, the Integrated Review 2023 (IR2023), two years after the first version (IR2021) was released.

On India, the strategy continues with themes set out in 2021, developing the 2030 Roadmap between the two countries and working towards a free trade agreement (FTA).

Initiated by the Liz Truss government, the updated document says the Euro-Atlantic remains the U.K.'s "overriding" geographic priority and calls the threat from Russia the "most pressing" foreign policy and national security priority.

This announcement comes as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is in San Diego finalising the next phase of a security partnership, 'AUKUS', with the U.S. and Australia, to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

While Russia and Europe remain its top priorities, the Indo-Pacific is listed as second on the list of geographic priorities. To this end, the U.K. seeks to go beyond IR2021 and prioritise partnerships in the Euro-Atlantic as well as Indo-Pacific.

"China under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) poses an epoch-defining and systemic challenge with implications for almost every area of government policy and the everyday lives of British people," IR2023 says.

"We cannot be blind to the increasingly aggressive military and economic behavior of the Chinese Communist Party," U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly told MPs as he unveiled the strategy in the House of Commons.

However, the IR2023 emphasises dialogue. The U.K. will cooperate on a broader range of issues, building long-term ties, "without forcing zero-sum choices or encouraging bipolarity in the international system".

The Prime Minister's foreign affairs spokesperson called it "an evolution in the U.K.'s position", citing the fact that the articulation of the policy was being placed before parliament for the first time.

"We're going to keep developing the 2030 roadmap and working towards an FTA," the spokesperson said with regard to priorities for the U.K.-India relationship.

The document says the U.K. will seek to maximise its soft power including via the BBC World Service and the British Council. The BBC has been in the news for its screening of a documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and for seeking to control social media use by one of its star hosts, Gary Lineker.

Japan's Kenzaburo Oe, awarded Nobel for poetic fiction, dies

Associated Press
TOKYO

Nobel literature laureate Kenzaburo Oe, whose darkly poetic novels were built from his childhood memories during Japan's postwar occupation and from being the parent of a disabled son, has died. He was 88.

Oe, who was also an outspoken anti-nuclear and peace activist, died on March 3, his publisher said in a statement on Monday. "*A Personal Matter*", published one year after the birth of his mentally disabled son in 1963 is the story of a father coming to terms through darkness and pain with the birth of a brain-damaged son.

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
S-3/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BHUBANESWAR-751010
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Website: www.oredaorissa.com , Email: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Notice No: 711 — Date: 10/03/2023

Tender is invited through e-tender portal from eligible bidders for Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of "720 kW Rooftop Solar Power System (RSPS) with 50% battery storage and 720 no's Solar Street Lighting System (SLS) at 36 Odisha Aadarsha Vidyalaya premises across 7 district(s) in Odisha" along with Comprehensive Maintenance for Five (5) years.

Details can be seen from the website **www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA** or **www.oredaorissa.com**. Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/-
Chief Executive

CAD-5110 :
OIPR-04065/11/0015/2223

In Cambodia, a battle for democracy, inclusiveness

Meera Srinivasan
PHNOM PENH

Build back: India is currently involved in restoring the 12th century sites at the Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia. MEERA SRINIVASAN

Earlier this month, when a municipal court in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh found Opposition leader Kem Sokha guilty of treason and sentenced him to a 27-year prison sentence, the international community and rights groups were quick to condemn the move.

The U.S. said it was "deeply troubled" by the conviction of the "respected leader". Terming the ruling "politically motivated", Human Rights Watch, a New York-based global rights watchdog, said it was based on "bogus charges". Cambodia's general elections are scheduled to be held in July this year. Incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen, who will seek another term in the coming election, has remained in the position for nearly 40 years.

Vanishing space

In addition to democratic freedoms, inclusive development that speaks to people's needs will be imperative for the country's progress, local activists note. Reeling under the lingering impact of Pol Pot's dictatorship, and the cycles of war which officially ended in 1991, the Southeast Asian country, home to over 17 million people, is struggling to elevate its economy from a lower-income status.

But the ruling establishment appears to regard democracy as dispensable, be it in governance or development, community leaders observe with concern. "It is just impossible to access credible data in the official records, there is no transparency. Journalists are afraid to take on the government or the Prime Minister, because of repression," a senior journalist, who is also part of a professional free media network, said. In a move that drew much criticism from rights defenders last month, Mr. Hun Sen ordered the closure of 'Voice of Democracy', a prominent local radio station, for allegedly criticising his son in a story.

Under threat

If democracy is under threat, it is not as if the government's development agenda is speaking to people's immediate needs, according to locals. And in this context, the spotlight on Chinese investment in Cambodia is growing. The scenic coastal town of Sihanoukville is a clear case in point. A brand-new 187-km-long expressway, built with a Chinese investment of $2 billion, connects the port town with capital Phnom Penh, reducing travel time by more than half, to just about two hours. Part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the road was opened late last year.

Beginning 2017, the port town saw a casino boom, as authorities pushed investment to develop the area as a tourists' hotspot. Chinese businessmen, in turn, saw huge potential for investment. Chinese money, and workers flowed in as online gambling picked up rapidly. In an abrupt policy shift in August 2019, the Cambodian government banned online gambling, amid growing reports of criminality and human trafficking. The ban left scores of Cambodians jobless.

Further north, in the city of Siem Reap, the second largest after the capital, tourism is seeing a revival after the pandemic. Visitors throng the iconic Angkor Wat temple complex, where India is currently involved in restoring its stunning 12th century sites. Locals, however, are preoccupied with the environmental impact of development around the Mekong River irrigating the region.

Along with its tributaries, the Mekong meets over 75 % of Cambodia's protein requirements and irrigates the rice-eating country's primary paddy cultivation belt. "With more hydropower dams coming up and developmental activity accelerating, we see a sharp drop in our fish catch. Crop yields are affected, because of frequent flooding, and the livelihoods of farmers and fisher folk are under serious threat," said a community leader, working on livelihood support in the region.

The international gaze on Cambodia is centred on Chinese investment. Locals appear more concerned about unbridled development that is detached from people's needs, than about who backs it. India, which is currently engaged mostly in technical training and livelihood support, could do more to support local entrepreneurship, a youth activist noted. "But more importantly, India must help promote democracy within Cambodia," he said. "Without democratic freedoms, the government's development initiatives cannot reach our people."

(The writer was part of a recent study tour to Cambodia organised by the The East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Citing frequent crackdowns, local activists requested that their names be withheld.)

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph.No. 06792-261343 / 261344
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Bridge N.C.B. No.272 for 2022-23
Letter No. 1006 / Date : 09.03.2023 //

1. Name of the Work : **Bridge works under Biju Setu Yojana in the District of Mayurbhanj.**
2. Total No. of Work : **03 Nos. (Three)**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.90.84 lakhs to Rs.305.99 lakhs** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As per Annexure**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Bridge On-line N.C.B. No.272	Dt.15.03.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.31.03.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.29.03.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.03.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

O-1954 :
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.
OIPR-25130/11/0023/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e Procurement Notice

1.	Name of work	: **Improvement of Existing RD Roads for the year 2022-23**
2.	No of Work	: **2** (Two) road Works.
3.	Time for Completion varies from	: **6** (Six) to **18** (Eighteen) calendar months
4.	Approximate estimated cost varies from	: **Rs.214.87 lakhs to Rs.1300.31 lakhs**
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted online in **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6.	Other details are as follows	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Bolangir.	**BLGR - Online-27/ 2022-23**	20.03.2023 At 11.00 A.M.	04.04.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	03.04.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	05.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

* Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
* Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.

O-1065 :
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir.
OIPR-25111/11/0006/2223

INBRIEF

LIC increases shareholding in Dr. Reddy's Labs to 9.69%

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) increased its stake in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories by about 2 percentage points through open market purchase of more than 33.61 lakh shares in over five months from October at an average price of ₹4,403.02 each. Consequently, its shareholding in the drugmaker has increased 7.676% to 9.695% of the paid-up capital of the company, LIC informed the stock exchange. On Monday, Dr. Reddy's shares closed at ₹4,383.65 apiece on the BSE.

I-T Dept. says ₹1,250 crore tax collected via updated returns

As many as 68,000 cases have been picked up for e-verification by the Income Tax department for not reporting or under-reporting of income in tax returns for 2019-20 fiscal, CBDT chief Nitin Gupta said, adding 15 lakh updated returns have been filed so far and ₹1,250 crore worth tax collected. Of the 68,000 cases, taxpayers have already satisfactorily replied to the notice or filed updated tax return in 35,000 cases while no response has been received in 33,000 cases. PTI

NMDC's Amitava Mukherjee gets additional charge as CMD

NMDC on Monday said its Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee had taken additional charge as chairman-cum-managing director. This follows a Union Ministry of Steel order giving him the additional charge for an initial period of three months up to May 31, or till the regular incumbent joins the post, or until further orders, whichever is earliest. CMD Sumit Deb was relieved on February 28 on attaining superannuation, NMDC said in a filing.

Feb. retail inflation remains virtually unchanged at 6.44%

Fruits, cereals, milk products witness acceleration in inflation from January levels; price rise faced by urban consumers inch up month-on-month, data from the National Statistical Office show

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation remained above the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold for the second successive month in February at 6.44%, compared with 6.52% in January, as per the National Statistical Office.

Food inflation remained sticky, with the Consumer Food Price Index rising 5.95% in February, just a tad lower than the 6% seen in January. Vegetables remained in deflationary territory for the third successive month, with prices falling 11.6% from last year's levels this February, compared to a 11.7% fall in January. Cereals inflation surged from 16.1% in January to 16.73%, milk products accelerated from 8.8% to 9.65%, and spices remained over 20% for the third month in a row.

Inflation in fruits more than doubled from 2.9% in January to 6.4%.

"February's inflation print is stubbornly close to January's... We expect March inflation to stay above 6% too, so there is a strong case for expecting the [RBI] to increase the repo rate in its April monetary policy review by 25 basis points," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

Out of comfort zone

February inflation was only a tad lower than January's 6.52%

- Inflation in fruits more than doubled from 2.9% in January to 6.4%
- Among major States, Telangana continued to record the highest inflation at 8.56%
- Andhra Pradesh (8.01%), Madhya Pradesh (7.65%), Uttar Pradesh (7.12%) and Haryana (6.97%) followed

Sensex, Nifty slide by 1.5% on U.S. bank failures

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Key equity market benchmark indices slid by about 1.5% on Monday amid growing global concerns about the failure of U.S. banks and the likely impact on India's economy.

Led by banking, auto and IT stocks, the S&P BSE Sensex slid 897.28, points, or 1.52%, to 58,237.85.

"The U.S. inflation data, due on Tuesday, will have a vital impact in the short-term as the market anticipates a cool down from January levels," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,238	-1.52
US Dollar	82.23	-0.17
Gold	56,550	1.81
Brent oil	81.86	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1874.40	-21.80
Adani Ports	681.20	-16.60
Apollo Hosp	4345.00	27.75
Asian Paints	2784.20	-46.00
Axis Bank	832.35	-19.55
Bajaj Auto	3778.45	-43.45
Bajaj Finserv	1295.70	-33.15
Bajaj Finance	5833.55	-40.60
Bharti Airtel	765.30	-8.45
BPCL	322.60	-3.45
Britannia Ind	4307.60	-3.40
Cipla	874.80	-6.40
Coal India	220.80	-3.55
Divis Lab	2767.00	-20.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4370.40	-25.15
Eicher Motors	3033.40	-82.70
Grasim Ind	1562.05	-33.85
HCL Tech	1098.60	-17.70
HDFC	2575.25	-33.65
HDFC Bank	1568.55	-20.10
HDFC Life	478.95	-11.30
Hero MotoCorp	2387.05	-53.25
Hindalco	402.25	-3.40
Hind Unilever	2455.10	-10.35
ICICI Bank	828.40	-14.25
IndusInd Bank	1060.10	-84.70
Infosys	1435.10	-36.45
ITC	383.65	-4.35
JSW Steel	675.60	-3.80
Kotak Bank	1673.90	-25.40
L&T	2133.85	-24.00
M&M	1193.45	-33.25
Maruti Suzuki	8518.40	-83.15
NestleIndia	18317.45	-168.30
NTPC	179.70	-1.05
ONGC	155.80	0.00
PowerGrid Corp	226.10	-0.45
Reliance Ind	2284.50	-38.20
SBI Life	1072.50	-23.40
State Bank	530.00	-17.35
Sun Pharma	954.10	-1.45
TataConsumerProduct	694.15	-10.25
Tata Motors	422.40	-13.45
Tata Steel	106.80	-1.30
TCS	3281.95	-49.05
Tech Mahindra	1133.80	72.55
Titan	2332.00	-43.50
UltraTech Cement	7075.60	-150.80
UPL	704.70	-6.95
Wipro	385.45	-3.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.92	82.24
Euro	87.40	87.75
British Pound	98.85	99.25
Japanese Yen (100)	61.26	61.50
Chinese Yuan	11.90	11.95
Swiss Franc	89.53	89.90
Singapore Dollar	60.80	61.05
Canadian Dollar	59.44	59.68
Malaysian Ringitt	18.20	18.30
Australian Dollar	54.38	54.59

Source:Indian Bank

'Russia tightened grip on India's oil market in Feb.'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The share of African crude oil in India's crude imports in February slid to its lowest level in at least 22 years as refiners took record volume of discounted Russian oil and raised purchases from West Asia under annual deals, show shipping data from sources.

India received a record 1.72 million bpd of Russian oil last month, as per the data. Oil from CIS nations – Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan – accounted for a record 38.3% of imports.

Growth trajectory fragile, time to pause rate increases, says CII's Bajaj

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's post-pandemic growth trajectory is still fragile and unequal, with rural and lower income segments of the population seeing a slower recovery that could deter a fledgling revival in private investments, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president Sanjiv Bajaj said, mooting an urgent pause in rate increases.

Consumption trends, as indicated by recent industrial output data, are "clearly unequal," Mr. Bajaj told *The Hindu*. "We see strong sustained growth from the middle and upper middle class, but in lower income segments, which is the mass volume, we still see lower growth. Rural India is growing slower than urban India," he noted.

Sanjiv Bajaj

> In lower income segments, which is mass volume, we still see lower growth. Rural India is growing slower than urban India

"We are still not in a situation of secular growth. That fragility exists."

"At the same time, we clearly see the green shoots for new investment coming in several sectors in the third quarter of the year already, like steel, electronics, chemicals... But to see this across sectors, you have to see consistent demand on the ground and steady growth." Terming interest rates as the biggest variable at this point, Mr. Bajaj said if they rose further, it would dampen growth.

'Decoupling is key'

"The time has now come for India to decouple itself on rates from the rest of the world," he said.

"The coupling was required through the pandemic, we had a common challenge and required common, coordinated action," he stressed, adding now policy makers can revert to pre-COVID actions and focus on growth, as inflation is moderating.

Regulators shut NY-based Signature Bank

Reuters

State regulators closed New York-based Signature Bank, days after California authorities shuttered Silicon Valley Bank, in a collapse that roiled global markets and left billions of dollars of uninsured deposits belonging to firms and investors stranded.

Signature Bank's deposit balances totalled $89.17 billion as of March 8. As of September, a quarter of its deposits came from the cryptocurrency sector.

Hyundai signs up to buy GM's Pune plant

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hyundai Motor India Limited said it has signed a 'term sheet' for the potential acquisition of assets related to General Motors India's Talegaon plant.

The 'term sheet' covers land and buildings, machinery and equipment.

"The proposed acquisition is subject to the signing of the 'definitive asset purchase agreement' and fulfillment of conditions precedent and receipt of regulatory approvals from relevant government authorities and all the stakeholders related to the acquisition," the company said.

The unit was closed following lack of demand for its products. The American auto major is locked in a legal dispute with its workers who want to be part of the ownership change.

India said to seek upgrade from global rating agencies

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Govt. feels economy has improved since pandemic, and that sovereign rating too must hence be lifted

India is seeking an upgrade to its sovereign credit rating, currently at the lowest-possible investment grade, as the Asian nation believes its economic metrics have improved considerably since the pandemic, a senior government official said on Monday.

The country's Finance Ministry met representatives from the top three rating agencies – Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global Ratings – after the government presented its annual budget on February 1, the official said.

"Our pitch is that our economic performance calls for an upgrade," the official said, requesting anonymity as the discussions are private.

S&P and Fitch rate India 'BBB-' and Moody's 'Baa3', all indicative of the lowest-possible investment grade, but with a stable outlook. These ratings are used to judge a country's creditworthiness, often impacting its borrowing costs.

They take into account parameters such as economic growth rate, inflation, general government debt and short-term external debt as a percentage of GDP, and political stability, among others.

The Indian government has shared its fiscal consolidation plan with the three agencies, which they have found to be satisfactory, the official said.

Govt. seeks ₹1.5 lakh cr. in supplementary demands for grants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has sought a final tranche of supplementary demands for grants for 2022-23 from Parliament, amounting to a net cash outgo of about ₹1.5 lakh crore.

"Approval of the Parliament is sought to authorise gross additional expenditure of ₹2,70,508.89 crore. Of this, the proposals involving net cash outgo aggregate to ₹1,48,133.23 crore and gross additional expenditure, matched by savings of the Ministries/Departments or by enhanced receipts/recoveries aggregates to ₹1,22,374.37 crore," the Finance Ministry said in its introductory note in the Lok Sabha.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, said although a portion of the net cash outgo may be offset by savings under other heads, it had raised the likelihood of a modest slippage relative to the revised estimate of a ₹17.6 lakh crore fiscal deficit in 2022-23.

Sport

ATK MB gets it right in the shootout, leaves Hyderabad FC heartbroken

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Having the last laugh: ATK MB's faith in goalkeeper Kaith was rewarded. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

ATK Mohun Bagan shot out Hyderabad FC 4-3 on penalties in the second leg of the semifinals to secure its second Indian Super League final berth at the Salt lake Stadium here on Monday.

The contest went to a shootout after the teams failed to break the deadlock in regulation and extra-time.

In the shootout, Dimitri Petratos, Federico Gallego, Manvir Singh and Pritam Kotal found the target for ATK MB while Joao Victor, Rohit Danu and Reagan Singh scored for Hyderabad FC. Javier Toro's shot was saved by ATK MB goalkeeper Vishal Kaith while Bartholomew Ogbeche's shot hit the upright. Only Brendan Hamill was off target for the hosts.

ATK MB will now meet Bengaluru FC in the final at Goa on March 18.

During regulation period, both teams were defensive and failed to utilise their chances. Backed by a vociferous crowd of around 52000, ATK MB enjoyed a slight edge in the opening session but a goal proved elusive as Hyderabad defended with gusto.

The Kolkata giant had its best chance in the 22nd minute when the skilful Manvir Singh evaded his markers and fired a powerful shot from the edge of the box. The left-footer beat Hyderabad goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh but deflected off the crosspiece.

Hyderabad, too, had periods when it was on the attack, but the attempts fizzled out as the ATK MB defenders stuck to their task.

The change of ends and a few substitutions failed to spark the teams and change the scoreline as both continued to rely on their defence.

There was no goal in extra-time too, though the hosts kept attacking and the visitors kept defending. Then came the shootout.

Grayson attributes Bengaluru FC's turnaround to mental fortitude

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Sunday will rank among the very best evenings in Bengaluru FC's history. Not fancied at the start of the two-legged semifinal against Mumbai City FC, Simon Grayson's men battled hard over 210 minutes and a little more before nicking the tie in a nerve-wracking penalty shoot-out.

In a way, it was also representative of the side's 2022-23 season. Not spoken of among the title challengers at the beginning, and down in the dumps two-thirds into it, only a miraculous run of wins resurrected the campaign and drove the club into the playoffs.

"We have come a long way...what we have achieved so far this season from where we were has taken a lot of mental strength and togetherness," Grayson said on Monday. "It's a fantastic achievement and now we have to go to Goa [final] and try and finish the job."

Grayson. K. MURALI KUMAR

It was to BFC's credit that it didn't wilt under MCFC's relentless pressure. The result could have been very different if Greg Stewart had converted the early penalty at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium and Jorge Pereyra Diaz had not fluffed two golden opportunities in extra-time.

"We had to keep believing that a chance would come," Grayson said. "We said to the players at half-time, and even after 90 minutes going into extra-time, that they will get chances, because we have some good players and we had the legs (fitness)."

"The penalty could have rocked us but we told ourselves 'if anything goes against us, we will remain mentally strong'. The save gave us a lift. Gurpreet [Singh Sandhu] is a big frame but you expect Greg Stewart to score more often than not. That save gave us an extra lift," the Englishman added.

Shreyasi and Prithviraj miss medal round by a whisker

Sports Bureau

Shreyasi Singh and Prithviraj Tondaiman shot 142 and missed the chance to fight for a medal by one point in the mixed trap event of the shotgun World Cup in Doha. India thus had to be content with the bronze medal won by Prithviraj in men's trap.

India was ninth among 10 countries that figured in the medals table. USA topped with three gold, two silver and a bronze.

The results:

Mixed trap team: 1. USA (Alicia Gough, William Hinton) 6 (144); 2. Kuwait (Sarah Alhawal, Talal Alrashidi) 0 (145); 3. Poland (Sandra Bernal, Piotr Kowalczyk) 6 (143); 6. India (Shreyasi Singh, Prithviraj Tondaiman) 142.

TWO OF A KIND

Ashwin and Jadeja are marathon players for us, says Rohit

Rohit Sharma, when was asked in the post-match interaction if R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja would be around when the next edition of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy takes place, about four years from now, said: "I don't know if they'll be around. For the sake of Indian cricket, I hope they stay. They are marathon players for us."

TOUGH LUCK

Shreyas Iyer likely to be out of action for a while

Shreyas Iyer, who complained of a lower-back pain on the third day of the final Test and underwent scans, is likely to be out of action for a while. While a BCCI statement on Monday stated that Shreyas wouldn't feature in the remainder of the Test, captain Rohit Sharma said he "does not seem to be doing well".

PUMPED UP

Smith excited about facing India in the World Test Championship final

Steve Smith is looking forward to the ICC World Test Championship final at The Oval in June. "The guys are really pumped by it. We saw India when they came back out on the field just after New Zealand had won. It's going to be great coming up against India in the final," Smith said.

RECOGNITION

Brook beats Jadeja to ICC award; Gardner wins again

England's Harry Brook on Monday beat India's Ravindra Jadeja and Gudakesh Motie of the West Indies to win the ICC Player-of-the-Month award for February with Australian Ashleigh Gardner claiming the top prize in women's section. Brook became only the second man to win it twice. It was also Gardner's second.

Honours even in fourth Test, but India makes WTC final

With the berth sealed, the Indians ease up even as Head and Labuschagne stand firm and ensure a draw for Australia; Axar picks up his 50th Test wicket; Ashwin and Jadeja named players of the series

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Shayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

India made it to the ICC World Test Championship final for the 2021-23 cycle on Monday despite its fourth and final Test against Australia ending in a dull draw at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Monday.

With some purchase for the bowlers on an otherwise benign surface on the final day, the Indian camp went for lunch, keeping a tab on the proceedings in Christchurch where Sri Lanka – the other team in contention for a spot in the WTC final – was playing against New Zealand.

Making it on PCT

By then, there were indications that the fourth Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy was heading for a draw, and Sri Lanka needed a 2-0 win over New Zealand to set up the WTC summit clash against Australia at The Oval in London in June.

But as Sri Lanka went down to the Kiwis, India surged ahead, riding on its points percentage (PCT) advantage (58.80).

The final berth sealed, the Indian players came into the second session visibly elated and a sluggish performance was on display by both teams before they called it a day with Australia at 175 for two.

Resuming the day at three for no loss, Australia lost nightwatchman Matthew Kuhnemann early, trapped leg before by R. Ashwin. But Travis Head (90, 163b, 10x3, 2x6) and Marnus Labuschagne (63 n.o., 213b, 7x4) stood firm and ensured there wasn't any further damage.

Despite the surface not offering much to the bowlers, a relentless Ashwin challenged the Aussie batters in the first couple of sessions. However, without much assistance from the other end, India failed to tighten the noose.

Head survived an lbw review by Ashwin just before lunch and making the most of the opportunities, the opener forged a steady partnership with Labuschagne, who struggled to get going in the first innings, making sure that Australia did not falter.

Head batted for 245 minutes and looked set on course for his maiden century before an Axar Patel delivery landed in the rough and crashed into the top of the off-stump, denying him a century by 10 runs. That was Axar's 50th Test wicket. After Head's exit, Steve Smith was dropped by K.S. Bharat when he was on zero, but Labuschagne doused whatever hope India had of a turnaround before stumps were drawn.

Proud winners: Team India with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after claiming the series 2-1. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
480 in 167.2 overs
INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
571 in 178.5 overs
AUSTRALIA — 2ND INNINGS
Matthew Kuhnemann lbw b Ashwin 6 *(35b, 1x4)*, Travis Head b Axar 90 *(163b, 10x4, 2x6)*, Marnus Labuschagne (not out) 63 *(213b, 7x4)*, Steve Smith (not out) 10 *(59b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-1): 6; Total (for two wkts. decl. in 78.1 overs): 175.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Kuhnemann, 10.4 overs), 2-153 (Head, 59.1).
INDIA BOWLING
Ashwin 24-9-58-1, Jadeja 20-7-34-0, Shami 8-1-19-0, Axar 19-8-36-1, Umesh 5-0-21-0, Gill 1.1-0-1-0, Pujara 1-0-1-0.
Fourth and final Test drawn, India won series 2-1.
Player-of-the-match: Kohli.
Players of the series: Ashwin and Jadeja.

I am still learning as Test captain, says Rohit

World Test Championship Table

	PCT (%)	PTS	Matches			Series	Penalty
			Won	Lost	Drawn		
Australia	66.67	152	11	3	5	6	0
India	**58.80**	**127**	**10**	**5**	**3**	**6**	**-5**
South Africa	55.56	100	8	6	1	6	0
Sri Lanka*	48.48	64	5	5	1	6	0
England	46.97	124	10	8	4	6	-12
Pakistan	38.10	64	4	6	4	6	0
West Indies	34.62	54	4	7	2	6	-2
New Zealand*	33.33	48	3	6	3	6	0
Bangladesh	11.11	16	1	10	1	6	0

Teams ranked on percentage of points won

Slow over-rate penalty: Teams will lose one championship point for each over short

** One Test remains in the New Zealand-Sri Lanka series*

Shayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

Rohit Sharma has captained India in six Tests – all on home soil – since taking over from Virat Kohli in 2022.

So far, the team has won on four occasions, and on Monday, after India retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, clinching the series 2-1, Rohit said he's still learning as a captain.

"I have led a lot in T20 cricket, but in Tests, I am only six matches old in terms of captaincy. I am still learning and guys around me have played a lot of cricket and they are there to help," Rohit said.

Rohit believes that in the longer format, it is important to stay calm on the field. "I was challenged as a captain as well and when you are playing a series like this, you are bound to make mistakes. I did make some mistakes but that's how you learn and try and not repeat them again and again. I am still discovering new things about how to take the team forward.

"The 2-1 result makes me happy. Wanted 3-1 but didn't happen, but I will take 2-1 as it's not easy to win against Australia. If you see from Nagpur to Ahmedabad, we have had our share of challenges and we didn't get any easy victories." Rohit said.

"I don't think there was any monkey on Virat's back. When you are around a player like that and see how they go about their business, you don't feel that kind of thing going in his head. He's just enjoying his cricket." Rohit said.

Sri Lanka's loss is India's gain

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

India qualified for the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final on Monday after Sri Lanka lost the first Test against New Zealand.

Sri Lanka had to beat New Zealand 2-0 in the two-Test series to qualify.

India will be featuring in its second WTC final, having finished runner-up behind New Zealand in the previous edition. The summit clash will be held at The Oval from June 7 to 11.

Williamson fashions thrilling win, is hero in NZ and India

SRI LANKA IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
CHRISTCHURCH

Kane Williamson orchestrated a dramatic last-ball win for New Zealand over Sri Lanka on a rain-disrupted final day here on Monday. New Zealand's win scuppered Sri Lanka's chances of making the World Test Championship final, handing India the spot.

The only Sri Lankans not guarding the boundary for most of the closing 10 overs were the bowler and wicketkeeper as New Zealand chased down the target of 285. Having lost eight wickets and on a day limited to 53 overs, skipper Tim Southee paid tribute to Williamson, who finished 121 not out and ran a bye off the final delivery in a remarkable conclusion.

When rain wiped out the first two sessions, umpires ruled there would be a minimum of 53 overs played, which meant New Zealand would have to average 4.85 an over. Williamson and Daryl Mitchell put on 142 for the fourth wicket.

Class act: Williamson finished unbeaten on 121. AFP

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 355.
Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 302.
New Zealand — 1st innings: 373.
New Zealand — 2nd innings: Tom Latham b Jayasuriya 24, Devon Conway c& b Rajitha 5, Kane Williamson (not out) 121, Henry Nicholls c Mendis b Jayasuriya 20, Daryl Mitchell b Asitha 81, Tom Blundell b Asitha 3, Michael Bracewell c sub b Asitha 10, Tim Southee c de Silva b Kumara 1, Matt Henry run out 4, Neil Wagner (not out) 0; Extras (b-5, lb-4, nb-1, w-6): 16; Total (for eight wkts in 70 overs): 285.
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-50, 3-90, 4-232, 5-238, 6-266, 7-273, 8-280.
Sri Lanka bowling: Rajitha 17-5-60-1, Asitha Fernando 19-4-63-3, Jayasuriya 19-1-92-2, Kumara 15-3-61-1.
New Zealand won by two wickets to lead two-match series 1-0.
Player of the Match: Daryl Mitchell.

Kapp and Jonassen clinch the issue for Capitals; fifth successive loss for Royal Challengers

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NAVI MUMBAI

One thing the fans of Royal Challengers Bangalore would have learnt to cope with in decade-and-a-half of the IPL is disappointment.

So they could possibly have prepared for the way RCB is playing in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League, despite getting some of the biggest stars of the game at the auction.

On Monday night at the D.Y. Patil Stadium, RCB slid to its fifth straight loss, going down by six wickets to Delhi Capitals.

Fourth win

It was the fourth victory in five matches for Capitals, to catch up on points at the top of the table with the unbeaten Mumbai Indians.

Chasing RCB's modest 150 for four, Meg Lanning's women won with two balls to spare.

The Capitals management should be happy that the team could reach the target without neither of the openers Lanning and Shafali Verma – both have been in scintillating form – making a significant score.

Shafali, who was brilliant against Gujarat Giants in the last game, went for a first-ball duck, cleaned up by Megan Schutt, while Lanning became the first of two wickets to the uncapped leg-spinner S. Asha.

On this night, Capitals' march towards the finish line was completed by Marizanne Kapp (32 not out, 32b, 3x4, 1x6), the star with the ball in the previous match, and Jess Jonassen (29 not out, 15b, 4x4, 1x6), after Alice Capsey made 38 off 24 balls (8x4).

Jonassen's six over deep midwicket off Renuka Singh off the third delivery of the final over clinched it for Capitals.

Earlier, Ellyse Perry (67 not out, 52b, 4x4, 5x6) and Richa Ghosh (37, 16b 3x4, 3x6) helped RCB accelerate after being 50 for two at the end of 10 overs, with their fourth-wicket stand of 74.

Shikha show

Shikha Pandey was the pick of the Capitals bowlers, claiming three for 23. She also took a brilliant two-handed diving catch at short fine-leg to send Heather Knight back.

Such efforts would prove crucial in the end.

Takes two to tango: Kapp and Jonassen accelerated Capitals' march to the finish. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Smriti Mandhana c Jemimah b Shikha 8 *(15b, 1x4)*, Sophie Devine b Shikha 21 *(19b, 3x4)*, Ellyse Perry (not out) 67 *(52b, 4x4, 5x6)*, Heather Knight c Shikha b Norris 11 (12b, 1x4), Richa Ghosh c Bhatia b Shikha 37 *(16b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Shreyanka Patil (not out) 4 *(6b)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 150.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-24 (Smriti, 4.1 overs), 2-41 (Sophie, 8.6), 3-63 (Knight, 12.4), 4-137 (Richa, 18.2).
DELHI CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-1-18-0, Capsey 3-0-31-0, Shikha 4-0-23-3, Jonassen 4-0-39-0, Radha 2-0-14-0, Norris 3-0-25-1.

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning c Knight b Asha 15 *(18b, 1x4)*, Shafali Verma b Schutt 0 *(1b)*, Alice Capsey c Perry b Preeti 38 *(24b, 8x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Richa b Asha 32 *(28b, 3x4)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 32 *(32b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jess Jonassen (not out) 29 *(15b, 4x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, w-4): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 19.4 overs): 154.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Shafali, 0.2), 2-45 (Capsey, 4.5), 3-70 (Lanning, 8.4), 4-109 (Jemimah, 14.3).
RCB BOWLING
Schutt 4-0-24-1, Renuka 2.4-0-31-0, Preeti 1-0-12-1, Perry 4-0-28-0, Asha 4-0-27-2, Shreyanka 4-0-28-0.
Toss: Capitals; **PoM:** Jonassen.
Tuesday's match: Gujarat Giants vs. Mumbai Indians, 7.30 p.m.

INBRIEF

Qualifier Garin upends Ruud at Indian Wells

Qualifier Cristian Garin shocked third-seeded Casper Ruud 6-4, 7-6(2) to reach the fourth round at Indian Wells on Sunday. Meanwhile, women's second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus advanced by walkover when Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko withdrew from their scheduled match.

Other important results (third round): Men: Daniil Medvedev bt Ilya Ivashka 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; Alexander Zverev bt Emil Ruusuvuori 7-5, 1-6, 7-5; Alejandro Davidovich Fokina bt Karen Khachanov 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; Andrey Rublev bt Ugo Humbert 7-5, 6-3; Cameron Norrie bt Taro Daniel 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-2. **Women:** Maria Sakkari bt Anhelina Kalinina 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Karolína Plísková bt Veronika Kudermetova 6-1, 7-5; Petra Kvitova bt Jelena Ostapenko 0-6, 6-0, 6-4; Jessica Pegula bt Anastasia Potapova 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; Coco Gauff bt Linda Nosková 6-4, 6-3; Barbora Krejcíková bt Wang Xinyu 6-2, 6-7(1), 6-2.

City will aim to carry on its impressive home form

Manchester City is unbeaten at home in the Champions League for more than four years. That run includes a 6-3 win over RB Leipzig in the group stage two seasons ago. City will hope that this record stands it in good stead when the two face-off in the round of sixteen second leg on Tuesday at Manchester with the tie in balance after the first leg ended in a one-all stalemate.

The fixtures: Porto vs Inter Milan, Man City vs RB Leipzig, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs England: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 2.30 p.m.

WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

BWF All England Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.15 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

India outshines Germany again, extends winning run

Abhishek and Karthi score two goals each while skipper Harmanpreet and Jugraj convert penalty corners in the 6-3 victory; the experiment with players and positions proves successful

On the prowl: Karthi was at his sizzling best for India. TWITTER@THEHOCKEYINDIA

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

Indian hockey's love affair with the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium here continued with the team extending its unbeaten run at the venue with a 6-3 win against Germany in the FIH Pro League on Monday, its second consecutive victory against the World champion in four days.

Abhishek and Selvam Karthi struck a brace each, Harmanpreet Singh and Jugraj Singh converted one penalty corner apiece and it was heartening to see the youngsters stepping up to take responsibility. The management experimented with players and positions and was rewarded for it.

India had a couple of chances early on but Sukhjeet could not get a deflection. Though the Indians trailed in the third minute itself, they decided to go all out instead of trying to play catch up. It was a display of aggression more than desperation and the fearlessness – something that has marked the Indian performance in the three games so far – was on display again.

Like against Australia, the second quarter was all about Indian pace and accuracy, on the ground and in the air. After missing a couple of half-chances in front of goal, Jugraj restored parity, shooting through Alexander Stadler's legs in the 21st minute. It was the start of a six-minute period of goal frenzy that saw the hosts score three more to lead 4-2 at half-time.

Harmanpreet's accurate aerial all the way from the Indian defence was brought down perfectly by Abhishek. The latter took three steps, turned and smashed home a reverse. Karthi added another before Harmanpreet got into the scoresheet.

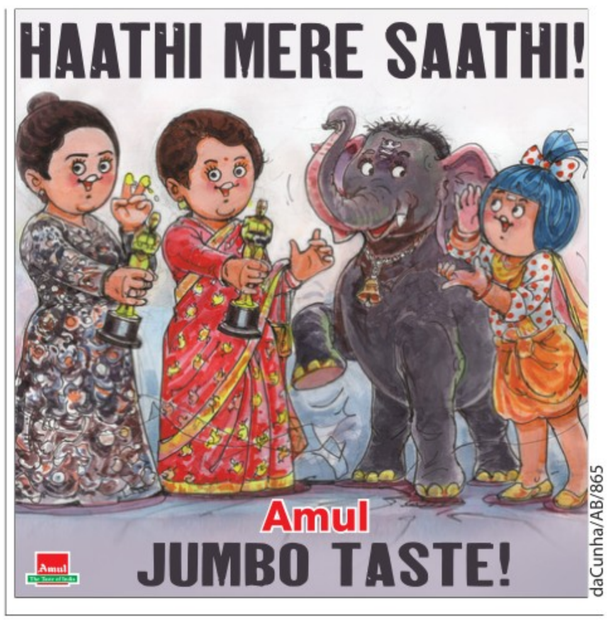
Gonzalo Peillat added one for Germany in the 23rd minute before Malte Hellwig reduced the margin immediately on resumption.

Unlike against Australia, the Indians did not let up and even though Germany dominated the third period, Harmanpreet's men never lost control. The basics were better and the players less erratic as the host found the target twice in the final 15 minutes.

Hardik Singh was rested and Dilpreet Singh shouldered the midfield burden, the youngster proving to be the engine room of the team with support from Rabichandra Moirangthem and Vishnukant Singh – probably the most inexperienced midfield India has fielded in recent times.

Manpreet played deep, often swapping places with Harmanpreet. Karthi, Abhishek and Sukhjeet were rarely out of position, regardless of the goals scored. Goalkeeper Pawan Malik's performance was even better than the one against Australia.

The result: India 6 (Jugraj 21, Abhishek 22 & 51, Karthi 24 & 46, Harmanpreet 26) bt Germany 3 (Tom Grambusch 3, Peillat 23, Hellwig 31).



daCunha/AB/865

Barca fights hard for win over Bilbao

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BILBAO

Raphinha's strike earned Barcelona an agonising 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday to restore its nine point lead over Real Madrid at the top of LaLiga.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen made some superb saves in the second half and Alex Berenguer struck the post, but Athletic could not break down the league leaders.

When Inaki Williams eventually did late on, the goal was disallowed after VAR spotted a handball by Iker Muniain in the build-up.

Adrien Rabiot made sure Juventus continued its charge towards European football with a decisive brace in his team's hard-fought 4-2 Serie A win over struggling Sampdoria.

Roma could have moved level on points with second-placed Inter Milan, but was stunned 4-3 by Sassuolo thanks to an Armand Lauriente double, Domenico Berardi's penalty and Andrea Pinamonti's neat finish with 15 minutes remaining.

The results: LaLiga: Sevilla 2 (Ocampos 45+2-pen, Lamela 73) bt Almeria 1 (Akieme 2); Villarreal 1 (Pino 55) drew with Real Betis 1 (Iglesias 38); Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Raphinha 45+1).

Premier League: Newcastle 2 (Isak 26, Almiron 79) bt Wolves 1 (Hwang 70).

Serie A: Juventus 4 (Bremer 11, Rabiot 26, 64, Soule 90+4) bt Sampdoria 2 (Augello 31, Djuricic 32); Lecce 0 lost to Torino 2 (Singo 20, Sanabria 23); Roma 3 (Zalewski 26, Dybala 50, Wijnaldum 90+4) lost to Sassuolo 4 (Lauriente 13, 18, Berardi 45+4-pen, Pinamonti 75).

Bundesliga: Wolfsburg 1 (Wimmer 84) drew with Union Berlin 1 (Juranovic 72-pen); Werder Bremen 2 (Ducksch 30, Fullkrug 86-pen) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Bakker 34, Frimpong 56, Hlozek 83).

Mary Kom urges Indians to stay focused to ensure best performance at the Worlds

BOXING

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Indian women's boxing owes everything to six-time World Champion and Olympic medallist M.C. Mary Kom.

It was no surprise that Mary was announced as the brand ambassador, along with film star Farhan Akhtar, for the Women's World Boxing Championships to be staged here from March 15 to 26.

"She is the biggest brand in our sport. She is the co-host of the championship", said the president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Ajay Singh at a press conference at the championship venue on Monday.

The look: BFI vice-president Debojo Maharishi, Neha Anand of Mahindras, BFI president Ajay Singh, Mary Kom and Hemanta Kumar Kalita, secretary general, at the unveiling of the Indian team jerseys on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"We want at least three or four gold medals. No less", said Mary, even as she quickly stressed, "I am missing the World Championship".

With the gold medallists assured a cash prize of $100,000 in the World Championship, apart from $50,000 and $25,000 for silver and bronze medals, Mary teased the BFI president by expressing a mock anguish for bringing so much money into the sport when she was not competing.

On a more serious note, Mary cautioned the athletes not to think about the money and rewards.

"You prove yourself in the ring, and money will come to you. If you are money-minded, you may not perform well", warned Mary.

"Attitude, arrogance and money can affect your training and preparation. Our performance should not suffer", Mary pleaded.

Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. was announced as the title sponsor for the championship.

Neha Anand of Mahindras said that the organisation was proud to see the company's logo on the Indian jersey, and be associated with the championship.

Monitoring team

Meanwhile, the International Boxing Association on Monday confirmed the presence of an International Olympic Committee monitoring team, led by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), during the Worlds.

(with inputs from Y.B. Sarangi)

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bengaluru FC starts campaign with a win

Bengaluru FC opened its 2022-23 2nd Division League football tournament campaign with a 2-1 win over FC Bengaluru United in Bengaluru on Monday. Leon and Namgyal found the net for BFC, while Irfan reduced the margin for FCBU.

The result: BFC 2 (Leon Augustin 41, Namgyal Bhutia 69) bt FCBU 1 (Irfan Yadwad 79).

Pranav and Yaseer help Yankees make the semifinals

N.V. Pranav (5/20) and Yaseer Nihal (4/8) helped Yankees CC defeat Rajajinagar Colts CA in the quarterfinal of the KSCA Group I, V Division league here.

The scores (quarterfinals):

Lions 239 in 47 overs (H. Raghavendra 30, Manoj Kumar 44, Gautham Reddy 74, Venky 31) bt Bowlers 155 in 35.1 overs (Narasimha Yenumula 41, Bharath Murthy 32, Venkat Purushotham 4/32).

Yankees 202 all out in 41.4 overs (Yaseer Nihal 73, Nithish Manju 33, N.V. Pranav 36, Sreeram Sreedharan 5/29) bt Rajajinagar Colts CA 89 in 23.4 overs (N.V. Pranav 5/20, Yaseer Nihal 4/8).

Unique CC 81 in 25.4 overs (H.S. Shashidhar 4/36) lost to Eminent Cricketers 85/2 in 13 overs (Naveen Krishna 29 n.o.).

Sapphire 262 in 49.1 overs (M. Ravikumar 45, Shameek Kolambkar 49, Dominic Fernandes 47, Karthik Shankar 3/42, M. Shivanayaka 3/42) bt Canarese 110 in 27.1 overs (S. Mallikarjuna 3/8).

Sudarshan Vidya Mandir gets the better of New Baldwin IRS

Sudarshan Vidya Mandir defeated New Baldwin IRS by 21 runs in the BTR Shield under-14 Group I, III Division inter-school tournament here.

The scores: Sudarshan Vidya Mandir 150 in 34.1 overs (S.P. Samrudh 27, D. Dharsh 28, S. Aarav 4/34, Arya Sagar 5/34) bt New Baldwin IRS 129 in 21.4 overs (Thanush 45, Skanda 4/18).

Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir 95 in 22.2 overs (P.V. Pavan 27, Akshit 3/20, Priyesh 4/9) bt Carmel Academy 30 in 7.5 overs (Aaroosh Bilu 4/13, Ruchitaksh Indrekar 3/4).

Venkat International PS 153 in 33 overs (Tejas 46, Aryab 4/21) lost to Shri Ram Global School 154/5 in 30 overs (Shahan 73, Akshobya 3/39).

Gopalan IS 219 in 31.4 overs (Bhaasvan 36, Aahwan 32, Adithya 47, Atharv Deshpande 4/40) bt Sri Jnanakshi Vidyaniketan 51 in 13.2 overs (Atharv Deshpande 34 n.o., Diganth 3/11, Bhaasvan 3/22, Aditya 3/4).

Zen International PS 48 in 14.5 overs (Sasmi Tokar 3/10, Jairaj Kaushik 3/1) lost to Delhi PS (Whitefield) 52/1 in 8.5 overs.

SS International PS 152 in 37.2 overs (K.V. Shreyas 28, Hemank 4/40) bt Sri Chaitanya Techno School 65 in 18.4 overs (K.V. Shreyas 3/10, M. Akash 3/11).

Lawrence HS 60 in 15.2 overs (S. Surya 37, Ankith Bhat 3/10) lost to Whitefield Global School 63 for no loss in 8.2 overs.

Devamatha Central School 221 in 47.2 overs (Rathan 47, Jay Aditya 34, Abhinav 37, Samanyu 40, Adil 3/31, Arnav 3/30) bt The Oxford SSS 40 in 15 overs (Sri Ram 4/9, Abhinav 3/9).

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